

# THE TIMES

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THURSDAY JANUARY 2 1997

## GREAT UNCLE DRACULA

Daniel Farson on Bram Stoker's family secrets

PAGE 15



## BEST FOR BOOKS

John Gribbin on other worlds  
PLUS: Evita: the books and The Secrets of the Vatican PAGES 32, 33



## BOY STORY

GEOFF BROWN'S  
VERDICT ON  
SLEEPERS  
PAGE 29



## BEST FOR JOBS

□ Consultant 70K  
□ Manager 30K  
□ Adviser 22K  
□ Manager 22K

APPOINTMENTS  
PAGE 54, 55, 56

Israeli officer overpowers gunman who injured six Arabs in burst of automatic fire

## Market place shooting fails to halt talks

FROM ROSS DUNN IN HEBRON, WEST BANK

TALKS on the future of Hebron reopened last night despite an attack by an Israeli soldier in which he wounded six Arabs in an attempted New Years Day massacre. He had wanted to stop the town's transfer to Palestinian self rule.

The shooting in Hebron's open air Arab market came as Israeli troops were preparing to withdraw from four-fifths of the town.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian Authority President, were quick to denounce the shooting. Talks between Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat had been expected to take place before the shooting, but Dennis Ross, the American mediator, said that they would take place "no later than Thursday". Israeli-Palestinian talks resumed at the level of officials last night.

The Israeli security forces responded to the incident by clamping a curfew on most parts of Hebron. They quickly arrested Noam Friedman, 19, a soldier, who raised Palestinian shopkeepers and their customers with gunfire from his M16 assault rifle.

The gunman shouted "Abraham bought the Cave of the Patriarchs for 400 shekels of silver — no one will return it" as he was put into a police van after the attack. The Cave of the Patriarchs is the burial place of Abraham and Sarah which is sacred to Muslims and Jews. The young soldier also told the police last night

that he had a history of mental problems.

Israeli military officials were quick to point out that the soldier was not stationed in Hebron but was from Maale Adumim, a Jewish settlement near Jerusalem.

The hero of the day was an Israeli army officer, Lieutenant Avi Buskila, who disarmed the would-be killer. Friedman was trying to reload his weapon when he was knocked down by Lieutenant Buskila, who said that he saw the man open fire and then try to run into the market. "I started running also and knocked him to the ground," he said. "It all took only about ten seconds."

During his interrogation by the police yesterday, Friedman repeated the slogan of Jewish settlers: "Hebron was and always will be."

Mr Netanyahu expressed "shock and revulsion" at the incident and promised that it would not stop the peace talks with the Palestinians. "We are committed to the speedy implementation of this agreement, properly concluded, and no crime will stand in our way of doing so," he said.

He added that now it was even more urgent that the Hebron accord should be completed. "The agreement we have been labouring on for months has been designed to prevent precisely such acts of violence," he said. "I have said repeatedly that undue delay in its conclusion and its implementation creates a twilight period of uncertainty and in-

ability that could induce the kind of attacks that we have seen today."

For his part, Mr Arafat called on the Israelis to "put an end to such acts and help protect the peace process". The Palestinian group Hamas said it would exact revenge.

A White House statement said that President Clinton was outraged and saddened by the shootings. The President spoke to Mr Arafat by telephone, but not to Mr Netanyahu. "The President condemns this cowardly act, which was clearly designed to make it more difficult to conclude an agreement on Israeli deployment from Hebron," the statement said.

The gunman received no support for his action from Noam Arnon, the spokesman for the Hebron settlers, who said: "What happened here today is a terrible thing. We reject and oppose it. This is not our way and we call upon everybody not to do such things and not to do any damage or any harm to any human beings."

Saeb Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, was not satisfied. He said that the 400 Jewish settlers who live and study in Hebron were "a timebomb which will explode in the faces of those who want peace". The attack showed "that our insistence on addressing the concerns of the (200,000) Palestinians rather than the settlers is justified".

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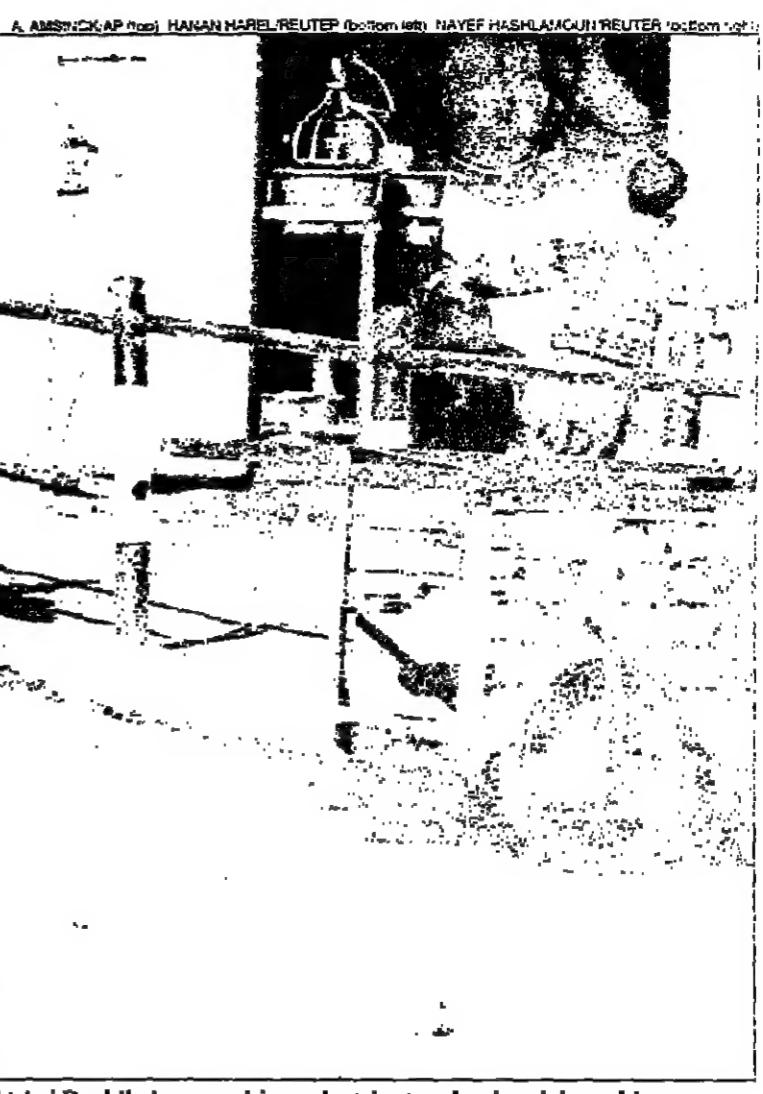
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## Zimbabwe's first cricket series win

Zimbabwe beat England by five runs in Harare, giving them a winning 2-0 lead in the three-match series after their earlier victory in Bulawayo. Beating drums and a packed house greeted their first win in a cricket international series as England, needing 41 from six overs, lost a race against overs left. Page 21

## Chelsea thwart Liverpool

Liverpool failed to consolidate their leadership of the FA Carling Premiership when they were beaten 1-0 by Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. Roberto di Matteo, the Italy international, scored the winning goal. Second-placed Arsenal closed the gap with a 2-0 home victory over Middlesbrough. Pages 22, 23

## Jobs for the girls in Blair line-up after the election

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE changing face of new Labour has been highlighted by a comprehensive analysis predicting that one in four Labour MPs after the next election will be women.

If Tony Blair wins office, he will be supported by a Parliamentary Labour Party that is also dominated by MPs who are former councillors, journalists and party officials. By contrast, fewer Labour MPs coming into Parliament will have a background in the trade unions but many more will be privately educated.

The findings emerge from a study of candidates in Labour's 394 most winnable seats in the country. It presents the most detailed picture — two thirds more than a partial survey last

summer — of what Labour would look like in government. In total, 91 of the candidates in the winnable seats are women, which would more than double the current number of 38 women Labour MPs. This would contrast strongly with the Tory backbenchers, which are likely to see their 17 women MPs depleted in the election.

A 394-seat haul, giving Tony Blair a Commons majority of 129, is much higher than even the most optimistic party strategists expect. But the women candidates are spread evenly across the range of safe and slightly less safe seats. So if Mr Blair secured only 350 seats with a Commons majority of just 41, the proportion of women on the Labour

backbenches would remain broadly the same. The Labour ranks after the next election will also be fitter to govern than before. The study showed that sport is the candidates' favourite pastime, with some 150 claiming to take regular exercise. By far the most popular recreation is football, with 60 saying they liked playing and watching it.

The study — seen by The Times — was carried out by DPR Publishing Ltd, a London-based firm, which used new computer software to analyse the results of brief questionnaires completed by each candidate. The *New Labour Guide* is to be published on five computer disks shortly.

Of the 394 candidates in

Continued on page 2, col 1

## £12m cold weather payments

BY ADRIAN LEE

ONE million more cold weather payments to elderly and needy people will be triggered by the end of the week, the Department of Social Security announced yesterday.

The freeze has claimed six lives in Britain and is forecast to last at least four more days, with temperatures expected to fall to -10C (14F) in central areas of England last night.

The department said the new payment of £9.50 per household would bring this winter's total to more than £12 million.

Areas qualifying for the first time over the new year included most of the Home Counties, Warwickshire, Newcastle, North Yorkshire, southwest Scotland, Essex, Cheshire, Gloucestershire and Derby-



shire. By the end of the week it is expected that most of Britain will qualify.

The payments are triggered by seven consecutive days of temperatures averaging zero or below and are for people on income support, including families with young children, pensioners and the disabled.

Pond death, page 3  
Dr Stuntford, page 14  
Photograph, page 20

## SOME WARMING

### NEWS FROM

## GIEVES & HAWKES

### THIS WINTER.

## (HALF PRICE PURE WOOL SUITS AND OTHER HALF PRICE OFFERS.)

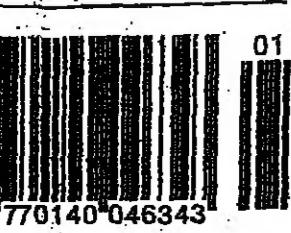
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BY THE TIMES OVERSEAS  
AUSTRALIA £10; BELGIUM 8 Pts 80;  
CANADA \$3.50; CAYMAN ISLANDS £10;  
CYPRUS £17.00; FRANCE F 14.00;  
GERMANY DM 4.50; GIBRALTAR Pts 80;  
HONG KONG £12.00; IRELAND £12.00;  
ITALY £12.00; JAPAN £10.00;  
MALTA £3.50; MAURITIUS £5.00;  
MOROCCO DR 27.00; NORWAY Kr 21.00;  
PORTUGAL £10.00; SINGAPORE \$19.50;  
SWITZERLAND S Fr 4.00; TUNISIA £12.00;  
USA \$2.00; ZAMBIA £1.00

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Are you?



BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN who discovered that her neck had been broken for 45 years has been told by doctors that a sudden jolt could have killed her at any time.

Joy Connor, 56, hopes to have an operation this month to repair the break, which happened when she was 11 and fell from a hay barn. Doctors were astonished when an X-ray revealed the damage to the odontoid peg that supports her skull. The slight bump could have resulted in paralysis or death.

Mrs Connor, who has had three children, runs a market stall and helped

build a house in the intervening years, suffered frequent pain in her head and neck, but doctors dismissed her complaints. Then, last year, she tripped and fell, triggering new pains. Her doctor ordered an X-ray, and that brought the problem to light. Now surgeons at Derby Royal Infirmary plan to graft bone from her hip to repair the damage.

Mrs Connor, of Chaddesden, Derby, said: "All my life I have never thought twice about lifting things or getting out and about. I always knew there was something wrong, and at last I have been proved right. I am lucky to be alive."

She said that she had had bad headaches when she was young and had

refused to go to school. "But no one believed me and I would get a good belt round the head for making things up. Once I passed out on the roundabouts at a local fair. Doctors said it was period pains, and later they said it was stress from bringing up children. One doctor even tried to give me Valium for it, I got fed up I just stopped mentioning it."

Alan Crockard, a consultant neurosurgeon at the National Hospitals for Neurology and Neurosurgery, London, said several hundred people a year suffered similar injuries to their necks, often in car accidents, but he had never heard of such an injury remaining undiagnosed for so long.

TV & RADIO 38, 39  
WEATHER 20  
CROSSWORD 20, 40

LETTERS 17  
OBITUARIES 19  
WILLIAM REES-MOGG 16

ARTS 29-31  
CHESS & BRIDGE 27  
COURT & SOCIAL 18

BUSINESS 37, 38, 40  
BODY & MIND 14

LAW REPORT 36

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BATH, CHELTENHAM, CHESTER, PORTSMOUTH, WINCHESTER,  
JENNER'S OF EDINBURGH.

GIE

## Oxbridge alumni hope gifts will secure places for children

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR



OXBRIDGE colleges are coming under increasing pressure to admit the children of former students, some of whom expect a university place for their offspring in return for much-needed donations.

Financial difficulties have forced the colleges to step up fundraising efforts in recent years, with direct-mail and telephone approaches to alumni. But the process has brought to the surface growing resentment among donors whose children are rejected.

Entry to both the ancient universities has become increasingly competitive, squeezing out families

which have sent generations of children to the same college. Two-thirds of entrants have the maximum A-level score and the proportion of students from independent schools has fallen.

As the colleges prepared to interview this year's candidates, admissions tutors insisted that there was no question of places being "sold". But some admitted that disgruntled alumni were applying pressure to secure preferential treatment for their children.

Michael Beloff, the President of Trinity College, Oxford, since last August, said he had already encountered old members who "complain that there is no guaranteed place for their offspring". But selection on

other than purely academic grounds would endanger Oxford's international reputation.

Susan Stobbs, who chairs Cambridge's admissions forum, said the university had drawn up new guidelines for admissions tutors to ensure that competition was fair and open. Colleges were pleased to admit students with familiar names, but only on merit.

Ms Stobbs said: "I have a feeling that there is probably more open discussion in colleges about issues to do with admissions because they are all running huge development campaigns. Suddenly they have been having a lot more contact with alumni and they have been getting some letters from people saying they

are not giving money because their son hasn't got in."

The issue came to a head at Cambridge when minutes of a meeting of science tutors at Pembroke College included a proposal for parental links to be taken into account if candidates could not be separated academically. Dr Stephen Monsell, who wrote the minute, said such an approach "in fact reflected our existing, but informal, bias, though we do not advertise it".

Although the meeting had no power to make policy and rejected a further proposal to check applicants' names against lists of former members, the discussion aroused fears that donors might exert improper influence in the selection

process. Forty-three of the 68 Oxbridge colleges now have full-time development officers.

Henry Drucker, who headed Oxford's fundraising campaign, said: "People do raise the question of their children when they discuss a donation, but I was always able to tell them it was out of my hands because we never knew how the colleges made up their minds. It must be very tempting when it is the college trying to raise money, but I have no evidence of anyone succumbing."

In many American universities, Mr Drucker added, there was said to be a "president's list" of about a dozen places which could be allocated to children of major donors. At

Oxford and Cambridge, however, it would not be easy for the head of a college to guarantee a place because selection was in the hands of the academics, who wanted the best.

Mr Drucker said some major donors to Oxford had seen their children's applications rejected subsequently. "They did not withdraw their gifts and they could not accuse us of breaking our word, but they clearly felt let down."

In earlier times, neither of the ancient universities hesitated to reserve places for donors' families. At Oxford, All Souls regularly reserved for "Founder's Kin", and Eton had a dozen scholarships to King's College each year because both were founded by Henry VI.

## Labour's women want to bring in Commons sense

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

TESS KINGHAM, a young working mother with a media job, is typical of the new female Labour candidate.

The 33-year-old has been an active party member since 1982 but decided to stand for Parliament so that she can join a growing band of women MPs keen to change male-dominated Westminster.

Mrs Kingham and many of her fellow women candidates tend to identify themselves with Tony Blair's new Labour, in marked contrast to some of the older male MPs who make up much of the opposition backbenchers.

While they will undoubtedly make a priority of "female" issues such as education and health, few have grand visions of political change. They instead want a woman's perspective to be brought to bear on Parliament and government in general, together with a more commonsense and consensual approach to policies.

Mrs Kingham has the heavy burden of trying to overturn a Tory majority of

6,069 in Gloucester. The seat is known as Labour's Basildon because, if it falls on election night, Labour will have effectively secured a Commons majority of one.

Mrs Kingham, who has an 18-month-old daughter, Rosa, with her husband Mark, was selected for the seat in September 1995 without the aid of a women-only shortlist. She has worked as a press and media adviser for several overseas charities for the past twelve years and is currently working for War on Want.

She had to think long and hard about the impact her candidacy would have on her family. "Parliament is very much geared to men with other jobs who do their politicking in the evening," she said. "It is not geared to anybody who has any kind of a family life."

She said that women have a better understanding of what people care about, especially on education and the health service. "Women are more aware of the concerns of the people simply because we

have families. We are the ones who take children to school, take them to the doctors. That means we have more of a grip on reality."

Melanie Johnson, 41, who is standing in Welwyn & Hatfield, has been an Ofsted school inspector for the past four years after being an NHS manager. She is also a magistrate. She was selected by a women-only shortlist in March 1995 before the policy was banned and has a good chance of wiping out the 8,468 majority of the sitting Conservative MP, David Evans.

A classics and philosophy graduate from University College London, and Cambridge, Miss Johnson joined the Labour Party in 1978. She stood as a candidate for Cambridge in the 1992 Euro elections, and has been a Cambridgeshire county councillor for 16 years.

Miss Johnson, who has three children with William, her partner of 18 years, said that the more women in Parliament, the better. "A more mixed environment will have a civilising effect."

Although she said women would of course have different opinions, there would be a common approach. "There would be a different style of working, more geared to results than noise-making. Women would be more likely to use common sense and try and build a consensus."

Jacqui Smith, 34, was selected

from a women-only shortlist in May 1995 as Labour's candidate for the new seat of Redditch in the West Midlands. With a national Tory majority of 3,277, the seat is a key winnable target for Labour.

Married to Richard, a civil engineer, and with a three-year-old son, James, Mrs

Smith studied politics, philosophy and economics at Oxford University after attending a comprehensive school in Malvern.

After a short stint working as a researcher for the Labour MP Terry Davis, she became a teacher and is at present head of economics and business studies at Haybridge

High School in Hagley, Worcestershire. Although she is a member of the National Union of Teachers, she has never worked for a union. She has been on Redditch Borough Council for six years.

Mrs Smith said: "What is important is that a woman's perspective is put to all our policies."

Signs that Labour is

preparing to shift its stance caused a dispute between Mr Blunkett and Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, over the scheme's worth. Mrs Shephard sees the latest set of league tables as a valuable weapon in improving standards in primary schools. She believes that the Tories could benefit politically from the two parties' difference in strategy.

Mr Blunkett said yesterday that he thought the £2 million cost of implementing the tables could be put to better use in improving schools. "I am interested in improving the standard of education in the neighbourhood schools to which 98 per cent of children go. We would need to be persuaded by parents that information on how other schools many miles away are doing would be of value to them — or that the cost could not be better spent helping their school in a more direct way."

Mrs Shephard said that the tables would show which education authorities had the best record. "Just as other publicly funded services have to be accountable, so should schools."

She said that Labour "has recently tried to mask the appalling record of Labour education authorities by mouthing support for standards in schools. But once again, David Blunkett has let the cat out of the bag, making it clear Labour would deny parents wider information about primary school performance."

Labour has said it would retain secondary school tables, which have been published for five years, but like the Government — aims to add more information about the "value added" by schools to children's performance. For 11-year-olds, Labour is committed to telling parents about only their own children's performance in English, mathematics and science.

shortlists had nevertheless gone on to select women anyway.

Mr Blair has yet to attract that many businessmen. Only 19 have

worked as directors in the private sector and only 24 as managers, most of whom are MPs already. Some 26 have worked as managers in the voluntary sector and 15 as managers in the health service. However, the party will include for the first time one fireman and one taxi driver.

Of the likely MPs, 265 are married, of whom 147 have children. Thirty-three are divorced and have not remarried, and five are separated. The average age of the sitting MPs is 52, while for the new

candidates it is 43. In replies to a questionnaire, most MPs and candidates understandably failed to list their more bizarre pastimes in the study, but some were disarmingly frank. Michael Meacher, the former Labour minister, reveals that he practices cosmology. Jim Cousins, MP for Newcastle-upon-Tyne Central, likes "composting". Barbara Follett, the candidate for Stevenage and former style guru, plays Scrabble on her days off. Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, enjoys cooking puddings; while Andrew Dismore, 42, a candidate for Hendon, likes studying "modern Greek history".

## Links with trades unions cut in list of Blair candidates



Continued from page 1. Cluded in the study, 242 are sitting MPs who are likely to return to Parliament.

However, the study provides the first detailed profile of 152 new candidates who are likely to enter Parliament for the first time in 1997. They are revealed to be dramatically different in character and background to their experienced counterparts. Most strikingly, a third are women. Few come from the unions — only 11 have worked as union officials or researchers. This compares with 47 sitting MPs who once had union jobs.

Only 60 of the new candidates are

even members of a union, compared to 157 sitting MPs. At the same time, only three of the new candidates are former manual workers: two steel workers and a fitter.

Twenty-one of the new candidates have worked either as national Labour party officials or as MPs' research assistants. 13 come from the media, 40 were educated at independent fee-paying schools, and 23 were educated at either Oxford or Cambridge Universities.

But by far the most common

experience is in local government — a massive 109 of the new candidates are or have been councillors. Including the sitting MPs, the new Labour

party will have a total of 256 former councillors on its backbenches.

The findings on women will be seen as proof that Labour's controversial "women-only shortlists" policy was effective in securing safe seats for women before it was outlawed by an industrial tribunal last January. Under the policy, Labour aimed to fill half of its winnable and vacant seats with women candidates.

Jane Anderson, the Shadow Minister for Women, said: "I am delighted. It vindicates what we have done to make sure that women are in winnable seats." She added that many constituencies which had been prevented from using women-only

shortlists had nevertheless gone on to select women anyway.

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Signs that Labour is

## Blair's secret cheerleaders turn out to be wearing the wrong colours

By ANDREW PIERCE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A SECRET plan by a Labour research body to recruit captains of industry to act as cheerleaders for Tony Blair in the run-up to the election has come unstuck.

Several of those targeted by Labour to try to counter the impact of big business supporting John Major were astonished to have been lined up as possible recruits.

Sir Clive Thompson, group chief executive of Renold Initial, who was on the confidential list, was particularly bemused. He is a lifelong Conservative Party member.

Professor Alan Watson, chairman of the public affairs company Burston-Marsteller (Europe), is a Liberal Democrat. Far from endorsing Tony Blair, he will be assisting Paddy Ashdown's election campaign.

Sir Clive made clear from committing the party to reform in the first year of a Labour government and appeared to be more conciliatory towards the hereditary peers, some of whom would continue to play an active role under Labour.

He said that it had always been acknowledged that there were some hereditary peers who — but for the fact that they were hereditary — would be there in their own right as life peers.

Although he said that reform would be a high priority of an incoming Labour government, he refused to offer a precise timetable. And he said that the possibility of creating 700 Labour peers to get their legislation through "remained in the background".

A NEW candidate has emerged as a frontrunner to succeed Sir Nicholas Scott as MP for Kensington and Chelsea, one of the safest Tory seats in the country. Gerald Bowden, who held the Tory marginal of Dulwich from 1983 until he was defeated in 1992, has entered the selection contest.

Nominations close at 5pm for the seat which, with a notional majority of 21,000, was regarded as a job for life

demands in Labour policy discussions. He detailed his proposals in a memorandum to Peter Mandelson, who is in charge of Labour's general election campaign.

The Lawson memo, a copy of which has been passed to *The Times*, said that they had to push hard for business endorsements on tactical issues such as the minimum wage and Europe. "We will work equally well with whoever wins the next election. We will advise and comment on all the parties' policies but we will not publicly endorse either party."

Mr Lawson, a leading figure in the Labour co-ordinating committee, even suggested the message of the group. He wrote: "Both parties have many good policies for business. We will work equally well with whoever wins the next election. We will advise and comment on all the parties' policies but we will not publicly endorse either party."

organisation led by business figures whose aim was to take the politics out of the relationship between government and private sector," he wrote.

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# New Year party gatecrashers axe teenager in head

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A TEENAGER was struck on the head with an axe by gatecrashers who forced their way into a New Year's Eve party at a friend's house. Detectives launched an attempted murder inquiry yesterday as Anthony Brickwood, 18, lay in a neurosurgical unit with his parents at his bedside.

He has a 4in deep wound at the back of his head and a fractured skull. It is believed that he ducked to avoid a blow which was aimed at his face. Police said that the party, on a naval housing estate in Cosham, Hampshire, was attended by a large number of juveniles, with no adults present to supervise.

Mr Brickwood had been celebrating with his parents earlier in the evening. They had seen him lying in hospital where he recovered consciousness long enough to say "Hello, Dad". His family were told that the location of the injury would make immediate surgery too dangerous.

His father, Paul Brickwood, 38, said: "He was with us earlier in the evening and with a group of friends we know. Later they all went on to a party at one of their homes. Anthony was enjoying himself when a group of gatecrashers tried to barge their way in."

"He was just called to the door to help out when one of them pulled out an axe and swung it at Anthony's face. Thank God he ducked and it

caught the back of his head." An ambulance crew found him on the floor of the house and took him to the Queen Alexandra Hospital at Cosham. He was later transferred to Southampton General Hospital. "The doctors have told us that Anthony has a fractured skull and a 4in deep gash just above his hairline on the back of his neck," said his father.

The doctors said they will not operate as it is too dangerous. He became conscious for a short while and recognised me. He said 'Hello Dad'. We are just hoping and praying that he will be all right."

The injured teenager's mother, Deborah, 36, added: "The doctors have said they won't be operating on him for

24 hours as there is a fragile vein running through the injured area, which means that any attempt to operate could be life-threatening. He's drifting in and out of consciousness."

"At the moment, all I want to do is be with my son. He has a little sister, Elizabeth, who is only ten, and she's absolutely devastated. Anthony had been so happy. He started work as a car paint-sprayer only a few weeks ago, and was really enjoying it."

Police recovered a hand axe from the scene of the attack. Inspector Barry Lakeman, of Hampshire police, said: "The party was attended by a huge amount of juveniles. The fight started just after midnight."

"It is evident that there was a lot of drink at the party, and no adults present to supervise."

"As a result, it got out of hand and a young man suffered very serious head injuries. This was a very serious crime. What started out as an innocent party has turned into an attempted murder inquiry."

Last night four youths were helping police with inquiries. □ Two brothers aged 13 and 14 were remanded into care yesterday by magistrates at North Shields, Tyne and Wear, accused of robbery and wounding a bus driver with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. Their alleged victim, Munir Hasmi, 60, suffered serious head injuries.

Anthony Brickwood: wound is 4in deep



## Royal party heads for the slopes

The Prince of Wales and Prince Harry shared their chair-lift on Mount Gotschna near Klosters yesterday with Santa Palmer-Tomkinson, 26, left, and her sister Tara, 25, a part-time model and gossip columnist. The Palmer-Tomkinsons and their parents, Charles and Patti, were among those with whom the Prince saw in the new year at

a private dinner party at the 11-room Hotel Waserhof. Also present were Mark Bolland, the Prince's new adviser and former director of the Press Complaints Commission, and Tiggy Legge-Bourke, the assistant who often accompanies the young princes. A

group out celebrating gathered under the Prince's balcony and sang their seasonal good wishes. Afterwards the royal party went to the mountain-top holiday home of a Canadian family where as midnight struck they watched a fireworks display against the backdrop of the Alps. The Prince and his 12-year-old son skied on Gotschna above Klosters yesterday. Prince Harry wore bright orange ski boots and a baseball cap while his father stuck to his usual understated style in a maroon wool hat and dark

blue suit. Prince William has not joined the skiing trip, preferring to extend his Christmas holiday at Sandringham. His reluctance to join his father is said partly to stem from his dislike of the continental paparazzi who are present in large numbers and will be following every step of the royal party during the next week.

## Ecstasy blamed for death at first rave

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A TEENAGER who collapsed and died on the dance floor at a New Year's Eve "rave" party may have taken the drug ecstasy.

Bilal Hussain Bhayat, 18, from Aston, Birmingham, collapsed just after 1am among 5,000 revellers at the Cardiff International Arena. As they continued to dance unaware of the tragedy, Mr Bhayat was given first aid by St John Ambulance volunteers and taken to Cardiff Royal Infirmary by paramedics. He was pronounced dead on arrival.

Last night, South Wales police said he was in possession of an unknown tablet just before his death. They said that Ecstasy was being offered for sale at the event.

Mr Bhayat had been at the £27.50 ticket event for two hours. He had travelled to the arena, which has not hosted a rave before, with his older brother and three other teenagers. A post-mortem examination carried out by a Home Office pathologist failed to establish the exact cause of death, and the results of toxicology tests for drugs may not be known for three days.

However, police believe Mr Bhayat's death was drug-related. Detective Constable Tony Hinchey said: "We suspect the death is drug-related. We are interviewing the boy's brother and friends who accompanied him to the rave."

Police are also examining a possible link with contaminated amphetamines being offered at the rave. Drugs squad officers are concerned that a contaminated batch of the drug Speed could be circulating in South Wales.

It is the first time a rave has been held at the arena, usually a venue for touring artists. The local authority granted a late licence until 2am with revellers being allowed to dance for another four hours.

## Newlyweds refuse to let IRA van bomb spoil wedding day reception

By NICHOLAS WATKIN, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A NEWLY married couple refused to allow the IRA to ruin their wedding reception when terrorists abandoned a bomb in the grounds of Belfast Castle on New Year's Eve. Sam and Karen Thompson, who were just starting a family with 300 guests, were forced to evacuate the castle and moved the party to a draughty hall next to the church where they had been married only hours before. Less than half an hour after the bomb alert, guests were dancing to music from a small cassette recorder in the hall of the Trinity Reformed Presbyterian church at Mossley, north Belfast. The couple flew off yesterday for their honeymoon on a Nile cruise.

The security alert began at 9pm on New Year's Eve when staff at the castle in the north of the city noticed a white van abandoned on the main drive.

As they alerted police, the IRA telephoned coded bomb warnings to newsrooms in Belfast, saying that a



Karen and Sam Thompson moved to church hall

## Man held over pensioner's murder

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A 25-YEAR-OLD man was arrested yesterday in connection with the murder of a 90-year-old man on New Year's Eve.

Wilf Mann, a retired cobbler who lived alone after the death of his wife five years ago, was tied up with cord and beaten about the head before he was strangled at his home in Ushaw Moor, Co Durham.

He was found dead on his living room floor by a council care worker and a neighbour who had called at his home on Tuesday morning. Police believe Mr Mann may have disturbed a thief. A man dressed in a distinctive turquoise jacket

was seen running across Mr Mann's back garden shortly before his body was discovered.

Yesterday, hours after appealing to the public for information about Mr Mann's death, police said that a man aged 25 from the neighbouring Co Durham pit village of New Brancepeth was arrested on New Year's Eve night. He was still in custody last night.

The death of Mr Mann, who served in the Navy in the Second World War, has shocked the local community. Detective Superintendent David Grey said: "Everyone who went to the scene was appalled by what they saw. Not just because of the

time of year, but at the sight of a 90-year-old man, who clearly was no bother or harm to anyone, to have finished his life in such a violent way."

Mr Mann had two brothers, Leslie, 87, and Mark, 85, who lived in neighbouring villages. Both were still too upset to talk about their brother's death last night.

A neighbour said: "After the death of Eva, his wife, Wilf spent a lot of time taking walks alone. He would go and sit on the bench in the park and just quietly watch the world go by. Everyone knew him as he was the local cobbler but he was known by a lot of people as a decent man besides."

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## Cycling reveller dies in frozen pond

By STEWART TENDERLICK, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A NEW-YEAR reveller is believed to have fallen off his bicycle on his way home and died after staggering into the icy waters of a pond. People who heard his cries thought he was just a merry drunk. At first, police were puzzled about the identity of the man, even though he had a distinctive tattoo on his chest. It read: "Dirt deeds done dirt cheap." They later identified him.

The 25-year-old, who has not yet been named, is believed to be unemployed and is the father of a six-year-old boy. He lived near Normanton, west Yorkshire, and was found at the edge of Pylon Pond in the town.

The body was discovered by David Dunbar, 61, as he walked his dog. He noticed cycle tracks and marks and then

saw an apparently new mountain bike lying in the snow beside the track on a bank eight feet above the water.

Mr Dunbar said: "It looked to me as if this poor bloke has fallen off his bike twice, perhaps he had been celebrating the new year. The second time he had fallen down the bank towards the water. Then in his confusion, as he tried to get out, he had ended up in the water, which was frozen over."

Yesterday a group of travellers living in caravans a quarter of a mile from the pond said they had heard the sounds of a man shouting. One man said: "At first I thought it was the dogs, but then I realised it was a man shouting. It didn't sound like he was in trouble. It went on for about 15 minutes. We just thought it was a new-year drunk."

Police were also trying to identify a young woman found battered to death in

the garden of an empty house in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, yesterday. The body was discovered by Valerie Connolly, the wife of the vicar of a nearby church, and the woman may have been killed on New Year's Eve or early on New Year's Day.

The woman, aged in her 20s, had been battered about the head but no weapon was found. The woman's clothing had been interfered with but it was not clear if she had been sexually assaulted.

Mrs Connolly and her husband Daniel moved into their house on Saturday, after Mr Connolly was transferred from a parish in Portsmouth. Their new home is next door to the garden where the body was discovered.

Mr Connolly said: "It's very shocking, my wife was obviously very upset. It's really the kind of welcome we would have wished for."



## Kayleigh police ask for help

By STEWART TENDERL

POLICE have enlisted the help of the National Missing Persons Helpline in their hunt for Kayleigh Ward, the nine-year-old girl from Chester who vanished shortly before Christmas.

As the charity began preparing posters yesterday as part of its appeal for help in tracing Kayleigh, Cheshire police asked the public for more assistance in finding her.

Kayleigh, described as streetwise, vanished after going to buy chips for a neighbour on December 19. She lived with her mother and two sisters in a hostel in Chester.

She often spent time with travellers and tramps near her home. Police have contacted a number of travellers' camps in North Wales and have also been in touch with Irish police.

THE parents of a teenager who went missing more than a year ago are convinced that a grainy videotape proves that their daughter is still alive.

Ruth Wilson, a bright 16-year-old, vanished on Monday November 27, 1995, leaving empty pill bottles at a local beauty spot near her comfortable home at Betchworth, near Dorking, Surrey. There had been no sightings of her until, on the anniversary of her disappearance, a teenager entered a newsagent in Dorking and asked for local newspapers. She was distressed and became more emotional when told that one of the newspapers was sold out. The events were recorded by the shop's video cameras.

The teenager was such a compelling figure that the newsagent contacted the authorities. Karen Wilson, a deputy head teacher, and her husband, Ian, a school departmental head, have pored over the video many times.

Initially, they did not believe it was their daughter but have become convinced of the identity. It is the first glimmer of hope that the couple have allowed themselves since Ruth went missing.

Their pain is constant. "Little things trigger it off."

By RUSSELL JENKINS

Mrs Wilson said: "We cannot really go ahead until we know where Ruthie is. In the dark moments, you believe she can't possibly be alive. Other times you are convinced she is out there somewhere."

In Ruth's bedroom her books, clothes and electric guitar are as she left them. The sixth former, who was studying chemistry and biology A levels, gave no sign of a personal crisis.

A taxi driver dropped her outside a public house at Box Hill. When she failed to return, police and volunteers searched 1,000 acres of rough parkland with dogs, helicopters and heat-seeking scan-

ers. Police discovered that she had visited a florist's and, two days after she went missing, a bouquet was delivered to her parents. There was no card attached.

Several days later police found three notes hidden under a bush in the Box Hill undergrowth. They amounted to farewells to her parents, her best friend and a boy she knew. Near by were empty packets of paracetamol tablets and a bottle of alcohol.

Police continue with routine checks. The Wilsons are heartened by police assurances that if Ruth was dead her body would have turned up by now.

However, it is the National Missing Persons Helpline charity and the Leatherhead police upon whom the couple have come to rely. "They have been superb," Mr Wilson said. "We are in regular contact."

Ruth's disappearance has been hard on her sister Jenny, 14. On one occasion she collapsed into sobs in the bedroom she shared with her music-loving sister. "I miss her so much," she told her mother.

Between her own tears Mrs Wilson said: "We want to tell her, we love you so much. Just get in contact, Ruthie. Let us know where you are."



Ruth Wilson: gave no sign of personal crisis



## Line of hope that can bring families together

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A TELEPHONE line set up to reassure families that missing sons and daughters are safe has been receiving twice as many calls over this Christmas and new year period as last winter.

Most calls to Message Home, the confidential free-call service run by the National Missing Persons Helpline, are from boys of 15 and girls of 17, but the average age is falling. The charity is also concerned at evidence that an increasing number of girls are being targeted by pimps to work as prostitutes.

The line enables runaways to leave a reassuring message for their families without risk of giving themselves away. More than 250,000 people go missing from home each year, many of them over the festive period when family tensions bubble to the surface.

The charity, which welcomes donations, is based above a supermarket in south-east London, has 60 volunteers, a handful of staff, and about 14,000 files on its computer database. It receives more than 80,000 telephone calls a year. The faces of about 140 "young vulnerable" stare out of the charity's adverts on the pages of *The Big Issue* magazine, on Carlton TV or on Body Shop vans. Two out of every three cases publicised in this way are resolved.

The charity is negotiating with Railtrack to place posters at every major station. These are often the first port of call for runaways. Jane Pearson, Message Home's manager, said: "The worrying aspect is that the age of callers is going down every year."

Recently Ms Pearson received a call from an 11-year-old who had left home that day and found herself frightened, alone and penniless. When the charity contacted the family, they found the mother in tears and the father roaming the streets desperately searching for his daughter.

The parents were persuaded not to call the police but to keep the telephone line open. After several lengthy conversations on the charity line, the child agreed to ring her parents and return home.

In another case, the charity helped a family whose daughter ran away as a 15-year-old after her parents refused to allow her stay at an all-night party. They were reunited three years later.

Ms Pearson said: "The parents burst into tears and set off the next morning to see her. As a teenager you think nobody loves you at home. Everything in your world has gone wrong. You tell them their parents are in floods of tears and then they burst into tears themselves. They say: 'I thought nobody loved me.'

"Christmas is a busy time. People are thinking of their families and those on the streets believe everyone else is going back to their families. It is cold and miserable. They see everyone having fun with friends and family."

There is concern among workers at an apparent increase in the numbers of girls under 16 being lured into prostitution in London. They are as young as 13 and 14, and most are runaways from care homes.

One of the 140 cases termed "young vulnerable" is a naive, 14-year-old Welsh girl who was picked up by a pimp and set up in a brothel in King's Cross. She is subjected to violence routinely to keep her in line. Her calls to the helpline are heart-breaking.

□ National Missing Persons Helpline: 0500 700 700.

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## How artist creates teenage face of vanished child

By A STAFF REPORTER

SHE looks like a happy, slightly impish 14-year-old, with the first signs of maturity showing in her face. The impression is mistaken.

The picture is an age-enhanced portrait of Loubna Benissa, who went missing at the age of nine on August 5, 1992, when she went to buy some yoghurt at the local store near her home in Brussels. The enhancement was created by the National Missing Persons Helpline at the request of the Belgian police conducting the Dutroux inquiry into a series of paedophile murders.

The artist said: "I was worried that I might not be able to do Loubna's picture because it is so harrowing. When you get the photographs, you cut off your emotions and get on with the job. After it was over, I breathed a sigh of relief."

In general, the shape of the skull and the forehead remain the same while the nose, cheek bones and chin are more dynamic. The older Loubna's nose and neck are elongated, the lips slightly more pronounced and the hair scraped back with fly-away strands.

However, the artist was careful not to lose the little girl totally. Chillingly, she says that if Loubna had been snatched by a paedophile ring, and prostituted, then she would not have been allowed to grow up.

Ms Cullington was trained at the National Centre for the Missing and Exploited in Washington DC. She is one of a handful of artists around the world with the expertise to carry out such work.

She said: "It is like doing a complicated jigsaw puzzle. It is 50 per cent art work and 50 per cent computer wizardry."

Ms Cullington was trained at the National Centre for the Missing and Exploited in Washington DC. She is one of a handful of artists around the world with the expertise to carry out such work.

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□ National Missing Persons Helpline: 0500 700 700.

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## The Archers recover their lost past in Tokyo and Kentucky

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of episodes of *The Archers*, thought to have been lost forever, have been unearthed as far afield as Tokyo, Kentucky and Pontypool.

The home-made recordings of the programme came to light after the BBC asked *The Archers*' four million listeners to help to trace vintage episodes of the rural soap which the corporation had simply thrown away.

Vanessa Whitburn, editor of *The Archers*, said she was overwhelmed at the response to the appeal, which was launched in November. "People seem to have secreted tapes in attics, cellars and suitcases. We guessed this might be the case but could not be sure," she said.

Ms Whitburn said that the corporation was particularly keen on older episodes from the serial's early days in the 1950s and 1960s. "There was one episode in the early 1960s when Walter Gabriel bought a baby elephant to the

Ambridge fete. I hope that somewhere, amongst all the treasures that people are sending in, this episode will come to light," she said.

Paul Hickey, who first began listening to *The Archers* as a boy of ten in the 1960s, has collected over 150 hours, recorded for him between 1985 to 1989 when he worked for an American bank in Tokyo.

His *Archers* tapes had made him an instant hit with British expatriate wives. "When you are abroad, *The Archers* is the aural equivalent of Marmite, something quintessentially English and a welcome taste of home that you can't get anywhere else," he said.

Listening to *The Archers* is a regular Sunday tea-time habit of Philip and Margaret Chase, a Birmingham couple who live in Lexington, Kentucky. The couple left Britain in 1972 and have been sent tapes regularly by relatives. "It is one of those things that keeps you in touch with the old

country," Mr Chase, 49, an oil company executive, said.

Reginald Watkins, a sheep farmer from Pontypool, Gwent, has kept 80 tapes of *The Archers* recorded over the past 15 years. His collection is unusual because it consists of edited highlights rather than entire programmes. His tapes contain valuable scenes with older characters such as Walter Gabriel and Mrs P.

The *Archers* appeal resulted

from the BBC's previous policy of re-recording over old tapes.

Between 1981 and 1989

only episodes containing

momentous scenes such as births,

marriages and deaths were

kept. The introduction of digital

technology in the early

1990s, which enables material

to be stored in a fraction of the

space occupied by old-fash-

ioned tape reels, means that

now all episodes are kept.

The tapes provided by *Archers* fans will be used to make a further compilation tape for

sale by the BBC.



Sister act: twins Karen and Sarah Steben, 21, of Montreal, whose Duo Trapeze act forms part of the *Salimbanco* show by the Cirque du Soleil. The show, at the Royal Albert Hall until January 19, blends theatre, dance, acrobatics, music, costume and a dramatic light show

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## Employers admit they still lend an ear to accents

By Joe JOSEPH

THE spirit might be willing, but the flesh is still weak when it comes to not discriminating against people with the sorts of accent you hear in gritty Alan Bleasdale dramas or from Benny at the late *Crossroads* motel.

The Institute of Personnel and Development came to that insight after questioning recruitment specialists, who confessed that, yes, people with strong regional accents were often discriminated against at work or when applying for jobs.

The basic gist is that if you have a Liverpool, Glasgow or Birmingham accent, and you are really keen to get that job, then learn sign language before your interview. Those are the three accents that are seen as "negative" by some employers.

But if you are a Glaswegian entrepreneur or personnel director you get your own back, because in Scotland an upper-class English accent "positively incites hostility," according to the chief executive of one recruitment firm.

Accent one London recruitment consultant told the institute, "communicates background, education and birthplace and frankly, some backgrounds are more marketable than others. I would advise anyone with a 'redbrick' or industrial accent to upgrade. Politicians and lawyers do it, so why shouldn't others?"

Another consultant said: "Let's face it – people with a Scouse accent sound whimsy and people with Brummie accents sound stupid."

A Dorset woman told the survey that she had no idea how strong the attitude to accents was until she moved to London: "As soon as I opened my mouth, people



Worzel Gummidge case for job discrimination?

would be queuing up to do Worzel Gummidge imitations. A lot of people seem to think that if you spoke with a Dorset accent, you were thick and uneducated. Some would even slow down or speak louder when they were talking to me."

John Major is doing what he can to set an example. In his drive for a classless Britain, in which all are judged on ability rather than accent, he has made Parliament a refuge for anyone who feels discriminated against because of how they speak. Major himself persists in saying "wunt" instead of "want", Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, calls us "pipple" instead of people, and John Prescott, the deputy leader of the Opposition, speaks in complex anglicisms.

Dianah Worman, the Institute of Personnel and Development's equal opportunities policy adviser, says: "Decisions about people's suitability for jobs, promotion or training should only ever be based on merit and ability, not petty prejudice." She's probably against sin, too.

### Parents' toy story costs them £1,750

By A STAFF REPORTER

PARENTS spend an average of £1,750 on toys for their children up to the age of 14, research has shown. Five-year-olds receive the most at £200 each a year, falling to £14 a year for those aged 12.

A survey of 8,800 youngsters for the toy manufacturer Lego found that the average family of 2-4 children spends £4,203 on toys by the time their sons and daughters reach 14. Girls said that they paid more attention to the "aesthetic beauty" of a toy, tending to prefer more realistic rather than artificial toys.

The survey found that girls read for pleasure and listened to the radio or music more than boys, who spent more time using a computer or playing sport. Swimming, cycling and football were the three most popular sports.

Girls of all ages were found to read more than boys and to progress quickly from comics to magazines. The average age of girls reading the magazine *Just 17* was 13, according to the survey.



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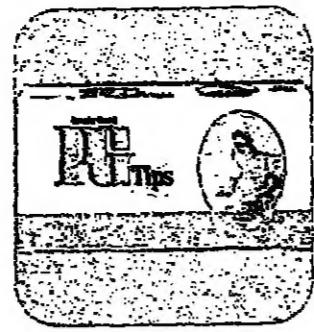
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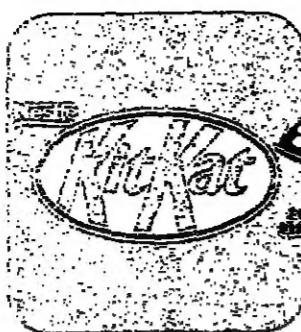


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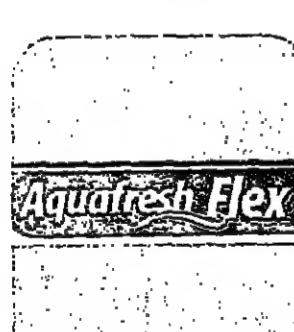
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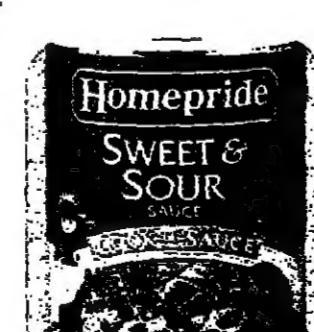
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05.1.97 150



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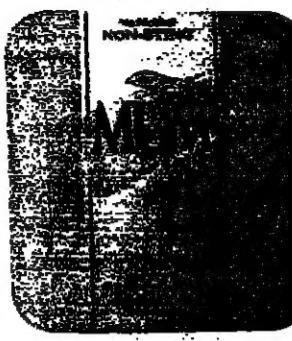
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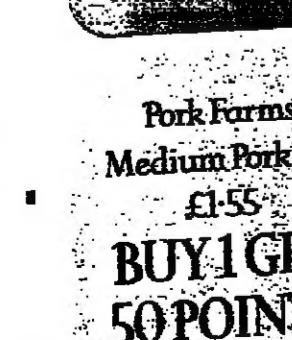
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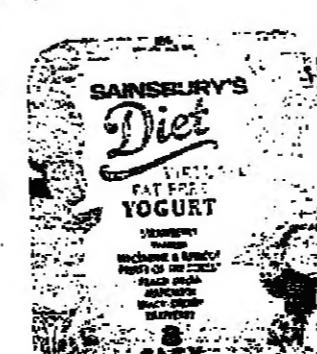
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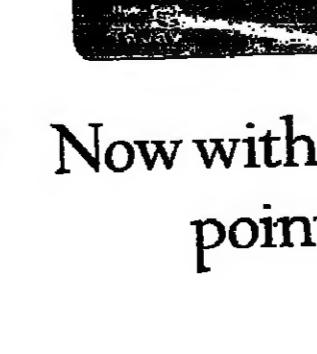
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## Two Republicans throw lifeline to embattled Gingrich

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

NEWT GINGRICH received an unexpected boost yesterday in his fight to win re-election as Speaker of the US House of Representatives despite his admission of ethics violations.

Two Republicans on the ethics sub-committee who investigated Mr Gingrich declared that they will still vote for him. They also vowed to oppose any attempts to censure Mr Gingrich that would preclude him from holding the Speaker's chair.

This news was offier by an announcement from the ethics committee that it would not begin its deliberations on a punishment for Mr Gingrich until next Wednesday, one day after the full House is supposed to vote for a new Speaker. Nor will the agony be over quickly: the committee anticipates taking two weeks, with public hearings and no final action by the full House on punishment until January 21, the day after President Clinton's inauguration for his second term.

Mr Gingrich had already declared that he would stand for re-election, even if the committee was still pondering his fate. The 227 House Republicans are left in the awkward position of voting for him without knowing all the

facts. This puts a strain on the loyalty many feel towards him for leading their capture of the House in 1994 after 40 years in the minority.

So far 18 Republicans have been quoted as uneasy about having to vote before his punishment is known and many more have been pressured by editors in their local newspapers to abandon Mr Gingrich for abusing the public trust.

Only one back-bencher, Michael Forbes of Long Island, has stated flatly that he will not vote for Mr Gingrich. But if 20 Republicans decide that they would provoke a disaster for the party by allowing the Democrats to elect their leader, Richard Gephardt, as Speaker, it is a powerful position and second only the Vice-President in the line of succession to fill in until his case is settled.

In an effort to avoid further slippage, a letter was faxed to all House Republicans from their two colleagues on the ethics committee who said their support for Mr Gingrich was solid. Porter Goss, of Florida, and Steve Schiff, of New Mexico, wrote: "We know of no reason now, nor do we foresee any in the normal course of events, why New

Gingrich would be ineligible to serve as Speaker." In other words, the pair think that censuring Mr Gingrich would be unwarranted and will opt instead for the lesser penalty of a reprimand, which would not require him to step down as Speaker. They could not guarantee, of course, that the eight other committee members — five Democrats and three Republicans — will feel the same way. The letter was greeted by Democrats as evidence of Mr Gingrich's crumbling support.

For all his troubles, no challenger to Mr Gingrich has emerged within the Republican ranks, a testament to his skill at building coalitions within the party. But if his chances of re-election become more precarious, Republicans may be forced to appoint a caretaker Speaker to fill in until his case is settled.

Mr Gingrich's problems stem from his televised college course, a scarcely disguised attempt to recruit new party members. He has admitted failing to ensure that he complied with laws barring use of tax-exempt charitable donations to pay for a partisan project and to misleading Congress about his connection to the funds.

## New UN chief to coax America over \$1.3bn debt

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE first task facing Kofi Annan, who took office yesterday as Secretary-General of the United Nations, will be to repair the organisation's fractured relations with America.

High on Mr Annan's agenda is a trip to Washington — likely to be his first official visit — to discuss a suggested "grand bargain" that would offer UN reform in exchange for America paying its \$1.3 billion (£750 million) debt to the organisation.

President Clinton has invited the new UN chief to visit the White House before Inauguration Day on January 20, and Jesse Helms, the veteran conservative senator, has suggested that he meet members of his powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which decides US funding.

In his inaugural address to the UN General Assembly, Mr Annan said that he would seek agreement of UN member states on how to "reposition" the organisation for the next century. "Kofi is not planning revolutions," one aide cautioned. "He is going to be scaling back and seeking consensus."

Mr Annan will be helped in his relations with the Americans by the perception that he

was installed at America's behest after Washington used its veto power in the Security Council to oust the Egyptian incumbent, Boutros Boutros Ghali.

As the former head of the UN peacekeeping department during the traumatic missions in Somalia and Bosnia, Mr Annan also enjoys the confidence of the new US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, who spent the last four years as Washington's Ambassador at the UN.

The Clinton Administration is expected to propose in its forthcoming budget recommendations to Congress that the United States pay off its UN debt in installments. The proposal will face resistance in the Republican-controlled Congress, however, where key legislators are insisting on further proof that the UN will streamline its operations.

In an olive branch to Mr Annan, Mr Helms wrote in a letter: "If you choose to be an agent of real and deep-seated change you will find many supporters and even allies here in the US Congress."

Speaking on his last day in office, Dr Boutros Ghali lamented that he had been unable to solve the organisation's longstanding financial crisis, which largely stems from the American arrears.

He added that he had tried to maintain a "minimum of independence" — a clear dig at the United States.

■ Tokyo's turn: Japan joined the UN Security Council, along with four other countries, and assumed the rotating presidency for a one-month stint. Costa Rica, Japan, Kenya, Portugal and Sweden were elected by the General Assembly on October 21 to sit on the Security Council for two years as non-permanent members. (AP/FP)



Annan: scaling back

## US presidency gains new powers of veto

BY IAN BRODIE

FEW changes have been awaited with more anticipation in Washington than the new veto power given to the President under a law that came into effect yesterday.

The new authority, known as the line-item veto, enables President Clinton and his successors to strike specific spending or tax measures from legislation without killing a whole Bill.

The aim is to go after the so-called "pork barrel" projects that members of Congress slip into spending bills to benefit their own constituents. Another target will be the special tax breaks for firms or industries that lawmakers attach to bills as favours to lobbyists or big campaign contributors.

Ronald Reagan started pleading for a line-item veto 15

## Hashimoto attacks role of media in Lima siege

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI  
IN LIMA AND  
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

JAPAN'S Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto yesterday criticised the media for making direct contact with rebels holding 81 hostages at the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima, Peru.

"It has provided the guerrillas with a propaganda opportunity," Mr Hashimoto told reporters. "I think it may harden the Peruvian Government."

A score of photographers were admitted to the hostage compound on Tuesday. They talked to rebel leader Nestor Cerpa and some captives, including Japan's Ambassador Morihisa Aoki.

Mr Aoki said he "must deeply apologise to the Japanese people and the Japanese Government for the situation because this occupation is caused by my lack of virtue," according to an interview broadcast on Japanese television.

The hostages were seized by a "Tupac Amaru" "suicide squad" at a party on December 17. Those that remain are largely key military figures and top police officials.

Red Cross workers kept up the supply of food and water to the besieged residence, and delivered smoked salmon, turkeys, and cakes to "celebrate" the new year. But the



Nestor Cerpa, left, the rebel leader who still holds 81 hostages, including Morihisa Aoki, the Japanese Ambassador

hostages must have spent the first hours of 1997 wondering whether they would ever get out. President Fujimori announced he was running out of patience and did not rule out the use of force to end the stand off. "To rule out the use of force I want to see the terrorists putting down their arms and releasing the hostages first," he said yesterday.

The rebels say they will not budge from their main de-

illars dressed in battle fatigues and all wearing red and white bandanas across their faces — some are women no older than 18 — showed off their arsenal of weapons to photographers. Television pictures showed that sofas and dining tables inside the Japanese Ambassador's home have been piled up as shields against the windows.

"It looks like the rebels are now ready to get tough and

have in their hands all the people who have been their traditional enemies," said a Western diplomat.

"It becomes harder and harder to envisage an end without bloodshed," he added.

Security and government officials say they expect a drawn out stand-off that could last for weeks, but are also drawing up plans for military intervention.

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## Elysée destroys clue to terror

FROM ADAM SAGE  
IN PARIS

THE office of President Chirac was embarrassed yesterday by the disclosure that it had thrown away an envelope that could have helped investigators to track down Islamic terrorists operating in France.

The envelope, which contained a letter from the Algerian Armed Islamic Group, was thrown into a wastepaper bin and cannot be found, according to *Le Monde* newspaper. As a result, detectives are unsure how the letter arrived at the Elysée Palace shortly before Christmas and are unable to trace the people who sent it.

In the two-page letter, the group threatened to "destroy our country" unless the French Government cut all links with the Algerian regime of President Zeroual.

It also implicitly admitted responsibility for the explosion that killed four people on the Paris Metro on December 3.

■ **Ajaccio:** Suspected guerrillas bombed a public works office in south-eastern Corsica yesterday, the police said. Nobody was hurt. (Reuter)

## De Klerk accuses Mandela of letting South Africa drift

FROM REUTER IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT MANDELA'S Government is losing its grip, and the people of South Africa are heading for huge disappointment, F. W. de Klerk, the ANC [African National Congress] President, said yesterday. "The impression of a ship drifting downstream, apparently rudderless, is constantly compounded," he said in his message for 1997.

Mr de Klerk is the leader of the white-dominated National Party, which invented apartheid and then scrapped it with an apology to the five-to-one black majority four decades later. He listed as the Government's worst faults "the bungling of foreign affairs and, above all, the surging crime wave".

President Mandela, however, gave a sharply contrasting assessment in his new year message. "Across the land, the impact of reconstruction and development is beginning to be felt," he said. "In short, we have laid solid foundations: the challenge for 1997 is to build on them. By keeping our sights on the long term, we can manage the ebbs and flows of the present."

Mr de Klerk claimed that South Africans would soon experience enormous disappointment at unfulfilled promises on education, health and

development, and that this would haunt the Government. "The expectations aroused by President Mandela and the ANC [African National Congress] are enormous. Before long, the disappointment will take on the same proportions."

The former President, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize with Mr Mandela in 1993 for their roles in South Africa's transition, led his party out of the national unity coalition government last May, saying that the country had grown up enough to handle "fearless criticism" from a robust parliamentary opposition.

In this role his catalogue of woes included the ailing currency, which has lost 30 per cent of its value against the dollar in less than a year.

He also cited the continued drain of "brainpower and experience" of white emigrants, driven out by an ailing economy and one of the highest violent crime rates — 52 murders every day — in the world.

President Mandela's message was that progress had been made in addressing the skewed development which saw the white minority dominating blacks for 350 years.

"We can take pride in the fact that millions of people have gained access to water, electricity and healthcare; that a national education system that will afford quality education is taking shape; that land reform and our housing programmes are now firmly on track," he said.

**Business Day** newspaper, the country's leading financial daily, meanwhile said that people were now more realistic than in the heady days after the 1994 elections.

"Wish-lists have given way

to the realisation that not everything can be solved because we are democratic and popular and, even if it could, we do not have the money to do so," it said in an editorial comment. "Expectations, both in government and among the people, are being scaled down."

■ **Open prison:** Tourists yesterday panned their video cameras through the bars of Mr Mandela's former jail cell, where he spent 18 of his 27 years in prison, as South Africa threw open Robben Island prison to the public. The island was formally transferred at midnight on Tuesday from the Prisons Service to the Arts and Culture Department, which has declared it a museum.



Rumours in the annual 2,000m Great Wall race struggle against strong winds in temperatures of -25C (-13F) yesterday. Only 30 of the 2,000 entrants competed

## Peking ushers in 1997 with praises for Deng

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CHINA ushered in 1997 with a paean to senior leader Deng Xiaoping.

The state television broadcast yesterday the first episode of a documentary praising the political patriarch, a man whose pragmatic policies turned a backward Stalinist state into an economic powerhouse and helped to regain capitalist Hong Kong from Britain.

The programme, to be shown over 12 days, sets the tone for a crucial Communist Party congress due this year, largely by defining Mr Deng's legacy to the present party leadership. Chinese and Western political analysis said. "This is an extremely important year for the Communist Party with the recovery of Hong Kong and the holding of the fifteenth party congress," a Western diplomat said.

"China's leaders are reminding people that Deng was instrumental in regaining Hong Kong and they are using him to define their own policies at the congress and in the post-Deng era."

Mr Deng, 92, has not been seen in public in nearly three years. At his last appearance he looked frail and unsteady. The documentary showed a vigorous leader, larger than life and portrayed against a background of golden clouds.

He was seen inspecting factories while wearing a hard hat, shaking hands with children and receiving gifts of poppies in Paris in the 1970s.

Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post* reported yesterday that Mr Deng has experienced spells of unconsciousness almost every week since early last year. It said that he was placed in intensive care last Monday night when he again briefly became unconscious and his nurses were unable to awaken him for supper at his home in central Peking.

However, the independent *Ming Pao*, also in Hong Kong, quoted a Xinhua news agency official as saying that reports that Mr Deng had been admitted to the hospital in a critical state were unfounded.

## Secret British bases plan revealed

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

SECRET negotiations to set up British military bases in Australia in the event of UK defence forces vacating or being "forced out" of Singapore and Malaysia, have been revealed in 1966 Cabinet documents that were released yesterday under Australia's 30-year rule.

The records show that the conservative Government of Harold Holt came under pressure from London to accommodate British forces. But senior ministers in Canberra were worried that the Labour Government of Harold Wilson would use such a guarantee as an excuse to withdraw from Asia altogether.

At a meeting of the Cabinet's foreign affairs and defence committee, Australian officials expressed concern that the British might want to get out of Singapore and Malaysia after 1970. One particular

minute recorded ministers arguing: "Britain appeared to hope for an eventual solution where countries on the Asian mainland would be neutral and non-aligned, and where non-Asian powers would withdraw to offshore bases, eg in The Philippines and Australia." But Canberra rejected this strategy as "wholly unrealistic" because it would abandon South-East Asia to "communist aggression", which was regarded as being orchestrated by China.

A frank exchange between Denis Healey, the Defence Secretary, and Cabinet ministers in Canberra early in 1966 offered an insight into Australia's strategic thinking, which drove the desire to keep British forces in Asia. During the meeting, ministers gave a warning that a withdrawal by the British from Singapore

might lead to an American withdrawal from the mainland of Asia" and also emphasised the importance of Britain in containing China. Mr Healey is reported to have openly acknowledged British forces were positioned to help to check "Chinese communist expansion".

Australia's relations with Asia were not restricted to military matters, yesterday's publication of Cabinet documents revealed. It also emerged that the country's "white Australia" immigration policy was relaxed in name only, as the Government continued to discriminate against Asians well into the early 1970s. A Cabinet meeting noted that the relaxation of immigration policy "should not be the means of giving rise to new admissions of non-Europeans (Asians) in large numbers".

## Thousands join protest in Belgrade

Belgrade: At least a quarter of a million people staged a huge new year rally here to demand democracy in Serbia, blowing whistles and ringing alarm clocks in an ear-splitting rebuff to President Milosevic.

The Socialist leader only hours before had ignored six weeks of opposition street protests against electoral

fraud in his new year's message to federal Serbian-led Yugoslavia, saying 1996 had been a very good year. Western sources said Mr Milosevic had also snubbed a group of EU diplomats. (Reuter)

**Sack for lm**

Tehran: Iranian employers have been told to fire a million foreign workers, mostly Afghan refugees, by Saturday, because they are illegal aliens. The unemployment rate is 11 per cent. (Reuter)

**Kashmir deaths**

Srinagar: Thirteen people, including a bank manager, were killed and 29 others injured in overnight clashes in the northern Indian state of Kashmir, police said. Troops killed four Muslim rebels. (AFP)

**Gambia poll call**

Banjul: President Jammeh of

The Gambia has urged voters to ensure a big turnout for today's parliamentary elections finalising the transition from military rule in the small West African state. (Reuter)

**Muslims to die**

Paris: Algerian courts sentenced 15 Muslims to death for

"belonging to armed terrorist groups", the APS official Algerian news agency reported.

Three of the men were tried in their absence. (Reuter)

**Skydive survival**

Sydney: Two Australian skydivers survived a 1,600ft fall

after colliding in mid-air as

hundreds watched at the national

skydiving championships in Corowa, 335 miles

from Sydney. (Reuter)

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# Byzantium's 'last frontier' explored by British experts

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

DEPLOYING technology first used to study Hadrian's Wall, archaeologists are trying to unravel the secrets of Europe's other great defensive structure, the Long Wall built by the Emperor Anastasius during the sixth century AD.

The 30-mile wall once cut the Thracian peninsula in two and was referred to by Gibbon in his *Decline and Fall* as the Roman Empire's "last frontier". It was intended as the ultimate line of defence between a world inhabited by Goths and Bulgars and the hinterland of Constantinople, the capital of the Eastern Empire.

James Crow, of Newcastle University, who spent two decades studying Hadrian's Wall, is now wrestling with the suggestion that the Thracian wall was not only part of a much more complex defensive structure than previously thought, but that it was defending something even more precious than territory: the

water supplies for what was at the time not only Europe's largest city but also the largest city west of Peking.

This season's survey, led jointly by Alessandra Ricci, of Ankara's Bilkent University, has revealed a remarkable network of underground water channels as well as previously undocumented aqueducts which are more than 100ft high and span entire valleys. These were all part of a supply system that covered a distance of 150 miles and was far more elaborate than that of Rome itself. As an engineering feat, the system must be reckoned one of the wonders of the early medieval world.

One of the few scholars to have visited the walls in recent times was Feridun Dirmittekin, the director in the 1950s of the St Sofia Museum in Istanbul, who as a retired Turkish army officer was able to secure permission to explore a restricted area.

The present survey has been

more exacting in pioneering methods very different from those normally associated with trench archaeology.

Much of the work so far has

been done not with spades but with electronic theodolites to download co-ordinates into laptop computers. Software developed at Newcastle then reconstructs the wall as computerised graphics.

What is revealed is a defensive system complete with towers and fortresses that ex-



Much of Constantinople's water-supply network still exists, including the Kursunluğerme aqueduct, "a monumental display of imperial might".

tends as a single continuous structure from the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara. In front of the outer face of the wall there were ditches and defensive earthworks that in places still survive.

The archaeologists are also

making novel use of low-orbiting satellites to plot the exact

dimensions of their finds via a Ground Positioning System similar to, but more sophisticated than, the navigational equipment on a yacht. That has enabled them to calculate the exact incline of the aqueducts and to hypothesise that the water collected in the Istranca Mountains ran right

into the Valens aqueduct that still stands in the centre of what is now Istanbul.

Like any expensive defence project, the wall had its critics. The Emperor Justinian's official historian, Procopius, criticised the wall as a piece of "military hardware" with a respectable shelf-life of nearly 150 years. The wall

could not have been so useless given that the rival Hippodrome factions of Greens and Blues joined forces to repair it after the earthquake of AD 558. By the mid-seventh century, however, the cost of manning and maintaining the wall, coupled with the effect of new siege equipment wielded by invaders, made the Long Wall obsolete.

It has to be remembered

that Hadrian's Wall itself is now thought to have been built more as a means of surveillance and control than as a deterrent against invasion.

On the other hand, the

dimensions of Anastasius's wall show that it was built to stop an army.

The battlements were 10ft

thick in places and the highest

towers more than 30ft high.

Although it could not be

defended along its entire

length, those who patrolled it

— the estimate is about 4,000

men — could gain enough

time for an army to be brought

forward from the city 40 miles

away.

The Long Wall has to be

looked at with another of the

survey's important finds. After

two years of hunting in a

different part of the country,

the Newcastle-Bilkent team

• What has  
been  
revealed is a  
complete  
defensive  
system ?

occupation of Istanbul at the end of the First World War. The Ottomans, too, in 1912 built a version — and no more successful — of a Maginot Line that ran through Anatolia, a few miles closer to Istanbul than the Anatolian Wall.

An equally impressive if more puzzling find has been that of an hydraulic network on the "wrong side" of the wall. Although Dirmittekin noted the aqueduct at Kursunluğerme outside the northern section of the wall, his description left Signora Ricci unprepared for the sight of a monumental display of imperial might. It is clad in marble and the keystone is decorated with a *christmon* — a cross within a laurel — a symbol of the newly adopted state religion, Christianity.

"So important a structure leads you to realise that there was no sharp division between the military and psychological assertion of empire," Signora Ricci says.



## Indian readers won by scant coverage

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA's news-stands are suddenly crammed with glossy magazines adorned with half-dressed women and articles about sex. The latest arrival is an Indian edition of *Cosmopolitan*, the cover of which pants with the very un-Indian headline: "What men want in women today."

The arrival of *Cosmopolitan* reflects a shift in Indian taste and tolerance: no longer are people satisfied with magazines such as *Femina*, which are obsessed with fashion, make-up and social sophistication rather than sex. The cover of *Cosmopolitan*'s first Indian edition barges into the market with a scantily-clad girl above the headline: "The greatest sexual turn-on."

From Shobha Dé, the best-selling author whose excruciating novels romp through the sex lives of India's upper classes, we learn about "A smart woman's guide to staying on top". This drive is startling stuff for Indian readers. So is an explicit article about being noisy in bed — "go-ahead, purr, moan, be raunchy". And there is this offering: "How to make him wish the night would never end."

The closest Indians have previously come to reading such material is in well-



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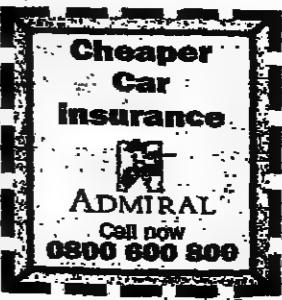
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# Palestinians call for removal of Hebron settlers

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

MUSLIM women wept and prayed at the hospital beds of their loved ones, wounded in yesterday's attempted massacre of Palestinians by an Israeli soldier. The sobbing women reached the hospital in Hebron through streets strewn with stones and burning barricades.

One of those keeping vigil was Fouzia Atrash, whose twin sons were among the victims. Akrum and Abdell-Karim, aged 16, were selling vegetables in the Arab market when Noam Friedman started firing at them.

The pair suffered gunshot wounds in their legs and feet. In hospital, they suffered their pain in silence while staff and reporters crowded round them. But their mother could not remain silent.

Asked if Yasir Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, should agree to sign a Hebron accord with the Israelis, Mrs Atrash said: "No, no, no. We must refuse this agreement."

She said that all the Jewish settlers in Hebron, about 400 in number, should be removed from the town. "It's a big mistake to let the Jewish settlers be in the city," she said.

Mrs Atrash said this time, she would not be satisfied with platitudes from the Israeli Government. Ten members of her clan had been among the 29 Muslim worshippers killed by Baruch Goldstein, the Jewish settler, in Hebron in 1994. Then, she said, the Israeli authorities said that Goldstein was crazy.

"We are waiting for them to say this incident is also crazy."



of Hebron, said Palestinians had been expecting an attack for some time. "There has been provocation by settlers and many right-wingers have come to Hebron for demonstrations. It was only a matter of time," he added.

Mr Naftali said Friedman had intended to destroy the proposed Hebron accord. "But we must not allow this goal to be realised," he added. "We must learn a lesson from this so that it will not happen again."

Mr Naftali yesterday met Yitzhak Mondechai, the Israeli Defence Minister, who offered medical treatment for the wounded and promised a swift end to the curfew imposed on Hebron after the attack.

A spokesman in Jordan for the militant Islamic group Hamas said the attack proved the futility of Arab-Jewish co-existence. "The crime committed today is what Hamas has warned about... of the impossibility of co-existence between the Zionist occupation and the Palestinian people," the spokesman said.

Israeli Fighting between Muslim guerrillas and Israeli forces and their militia allies in southern Lebanon killed 255 people in 1996, including 27 Israeli troops.

The soldiers' deaths make up the highest annual Israeli death toll on the last active Arab-Israeli frontline in more than a decade.

In 1995, 175 people died in southern Lebanon violence, including 23 Israeli soldiers. A year earlier, 21 Israelis were among 201 people killed there.

Mustafa Naftali, the Mayor



Israeli troops attending to one of the Palestinians who was wounded in the Arab marketplace in Hebron yesterday by another uniformed soldier, Noam Friedman, who opened fire on civilians

## Portillo to assess Falklands garrison

By MICHAEL BINNION  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MICHAEL PORTILLO, the Defence Secretary, arrived yesterday in Port Stanley at the start of a four-day visit intended to underline Britain's commitment to the Falklands and to look at the future of the 2,000-strong military garrison there.

His visit comes as Britain and the Falklands are negotiating the costs of running the base and two weeks before a controversial visit to the Argentinian graveyard by the families of soldiers killed during the 1982 Falklands conflict.

Mr Portillo arrived from Chile, where he spent three days in talks with President Frei and the Defence Ministry and visited a joint British-Chilean artillery factory. In the Falklands he will meet the Governor, Richard Ralph, and visit the three armed service leaders at the Mount Pleasant base. He will also lay a wreath in San Carlos for British soldiers killed in 1982.

Mr Portillo is likely to make much of the Conservatives' commitment to the islands' sovereignty, and may contrast his remarks with those made during a recent visit by Tony Lloyd, Labour foreign affairs spokesman, who spoke of the need for closer relations between the islands and Argentina, causing unease among some Falklanders.

Mr Portillo is expected to underline the Government's rejection of a recent proposal by President Menem of Argentina that his country should share sovereignty over the Falklands with Britain. The Foreign Office brushed aside the remarks before Christmas, saying: "We are not prepared to discuss any change over the Falklands."

## Suu Kyi in defiant plea for pressure

### Singapore stability 'at stake in poll'

From Reuters in SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE'S Prime Minister, Goh Chok Tong, said his position and the country's stability could be questioned if his party fared badly in today's election, even though it is assured of continued control of the Government.

The ruling People's Action Party (PAP) is guaranteed a majority after the election because 47 of the parliament's 83 seats are not being contested by the opposition.

But on the hustings for the remaining 36 seats, Mr Goh said, strong support for the opposition could rebound on voters. He said the PAP would monitor results from every voting ward to pinpoint the precincts that supported the opposition and the level of that support. This information would determine which areas received priority for housing upgrading.

Explosions which killed five people and injured 17, and a series of student protests earlier in December, have marked Burma's most important unrest since the 1988 pro-democracy uprising.

Daw Suu Kyi denied allegations by the junta, which has ruled Burma since 1962, of fomenting unrest. "I do not believe in arousing the masses just to create a situation that will be favourable for our organisation," she said. "We want the kind of change that comes because people understand the need for a change and are committed to make it." (AP)

## Italy pays Gothic homage to creator of Frankenstein

FROM RICHARD OWEN  
IN ROME

MARY SHELLEY, whose life in Italy has been overshadowed by the enduring fame of Percy Bysshe Shelley, her husband, is to be commemorated in a new museum at Lerici, on the Gulf of Spezia.

The town council has been persuaded to dedicate a castle overlooking the sea to her memory and local feminists want to give it a Gothic atmosphere, reminiscent of her book, *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus*.

The project has the backing of Barbara Abele, daughter of Leo Abele, the MP, and niece of the poet Domenico Abele, who is curator of the Keats-Shelley House in Rome. She is leaving the city after bringing about a remarkable renaissance at the house over the past six years, turning a loss into a "healthy profit".

But the house, which is next to the Spanish Steps and preserved much as it was in the 1820s, is devoted to the male Romantic poets. "This year marks the bicentenary of Mary Shelley's birth," she said. "We have limited space, so I am delighted that Lerici is to honour her."

Mary Shelley published *Frankenstein* in 1818 when she was 21 and had been married to Shelley for two



Mary Shelley: neglected

years. After travelling to Venice, Naples and Rome, the couple lived in Pisa. In 1822 they moved to San Terenzo, near Lerici, with Byron and other members of a tempestuous circle of Romantic poets and hangovers-on.

The Casas Magni is now a hotel, but Signora Solaro said that the 12th-century castle on the headland above would make a suitably atmospheric museum. "We want to create a literary park and castle which will enshrine the imagination of a great writer and her extraordinary circle of friends," Signora Solaro said. The museum organises hope to display Mary's letters, manuscripts, and other documents relating to her novels, which also included *The Last Man* and *Valperga*.

*In Search of Mary Shelley*, believes Mary has been unjustly neglected. "I suggest that few people actually read the Romantic poets any more... whereas Frankenstein has become part of our collective heritage," she said. "The product of Mary Shelley's imagination still stands as a symbol of the technology modern man has created."

After Shelley's death, Mary returned to Kentish Town and survived him by nearly 30 years. She subsequently wrote that the death of "my divine Shelley" had ended an unhappy period at Lerici, but Lucia Solaro, head of tourism for La Spezia and "The Gulf of the Poets", insisted that Lerici was a suitable romantic site for a modern memorial to Mary Shelley and her achievements.

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**Dr Thomas Stuttaford**  
on the dangers of diving into freezing water, the differences between flu and a heavy cold, why you should avoid snuggling up to your pet bird, and the hazards of the local hair salon

## Icy waters bring on diving reflex

**C**hristmas and new year swimmers have had more publicity than usual this year as in many seaside towns they had to plough through the snow before plunging into near-freezing water.

Even when a person is expecting it sudden immersion in cold water has a very marked influence on both the respiratory system and the circulation.

Even going under a cold shower produces a sharp inward draw of the breath, and similar changes affect the

cardio-vascular system. Plunging the limb of a patient with emphysema into cold water while carrying out an ECG tracing produces the characteristic changes of coronary arterial disease.

Mid-winter Serpentine bathers should either be certain that they are free of heart disease, or leave charity fundraising to somebody else.

Many swimmers pant before they dive into cold water in the belief that by hyperventilating they will be able to hold their breath longer once in the water. The practice is not without hazard as it tends to slow the heart to the point where the swimmer may lapse into unconsciousness, and later death, if not rapidly revived. The slowing of the heart is induced by changes in the carbon dioxide blood levels, which are associated with hyperventilation.

Sudden immersion when someone is not expecting it can be even more devastating and is one of the common causes of dry drowning. Dry drowning is the condition in which it is found that people who have been recovered from the water have no excess fluid in their lungs even though their immersion was fatal.

The late Dr Gavin Thurston, who was for

many years the coroner for central

London, said the majority of the people whose inquest he conducted after they had died from falling in the Thames had no water in their lungs. Death in these cases of sudden drowning is a result of the sudden cooling which acts as a shock to the heart and precipitates ventricular fibrillation, a disordered rhythm of the heart which is incompatible with life.

Despite the tragic deaths of William and Jill Willis, the Essex dog lovers who gave their lives in an attempt to save their labrador, people can survive surprisingly long periods in very cold water and are sometimes revived when all signs of life are apparently absent. These survivors owe their lives to the mammalian diving reflex.

The diving reflex, which is better exhibited by animals more accustomed to swimming in icy water, involves the redirection of the oxygenated blood away from the limbs and the gastro-intestinal tract to the essential organs such as the heart and brain. Patients, who have been in cold water for an hour or two and have had rectal temperatures of below 20°C, have survived unscathed.

The nearer the water is to freezing, the more likely it is the reflex will be induced, fortunately the body's tissues also need less oxygen to survive when they are thoroughly chilled, which gives rescuers a better chance of resuscitating the victims than they would have had had the accident happened in a warmer climate.

The diving reflex is more efficient in children than in adults, as is exemplified by the case a year or two ago of a toddler who was swept a mile or two down the river in Norfolk before being spotted drifting in the water. He was rescued, resuscitated and made a full recovery.

**'People survive long periods in cold water'**



Mid-winter Serpentine bathers should either be certain that they are free of heart disease, or leave charity fundraising to others

## The unhappy returns of flu

**T**here is still doubt that the present outbreak of upper respiratory tract infections is the start of a genuine flu epidemic, or merely part of the usual seasonal increase in viral infections. At Christmas time there is more party-going, shops are crowded and this year people have become cold and damp because of the freezing weather. The holiday period has provided the ideal environment for viruses to spread and to infect hosts whose resistance has been lowered.

So far as the patient is concerned the difference between flu and a heavy cold is one of degree, and its symptoms therefore are subject to interpretation by the sufferer. Some people are convinced that they never catch a cold, but always flu. Other sufferers, more emotionally robust and brought up in the tradition of grin and bear it, may have a headache, muscle pains, backache, shivering, a dry cough and high temperature—the typical symptoms of flu—and yet protest that they only have a cold. This stiff upper lip approach to winter infections is potentially dangerous both to colleagues who would rather not catch them, and to the patient.

Flu should always be nursed at home. In an uncomplicated case no more than a high fluid intake, aspirin for the adults, paracetamol for children, cough mixture, rest and warmth are needed. But if

there is any sign that the patient has pneumonia (increasing breathlessness, a

blue tinge to their complexion, or bloodstained sputum) or other signs of secondary infection a doctor should be called immediately. If a flu victim belongs to one of the high risk groups—the very young, the over-65s or those with chronic lung, heart, diabetes or kidney conditions—medical advice should also be sought. Patients taking immuno-suppressant drugs, including steroids, or who have malignancies will need skilled attention.

**T**here are three types of influenza virus, A, B and C. The C virus is the mildest and often causes symptoms which are no worse than a cold. The current virus emptying hospitals of nurses while filling them with cases of pneumonia is of the A variety. Influenza A is less stable than B and usually causes more severe symptoms. The nature of influenza A regularly undergoes shifts, major changes in the virus, or drifts, minor changes. After a shift the immunity of the population to the new-style virus is low and a severe epidemic may follow.

The latest figures suggest that the incidents of flu are still well below the 4 per 100,000 of the population needed before an epidemic can be declared. The situation can, however, change rapidly. In the late Sixties a flu epidemic suddenly erupted over the Christmas period; the flu virus like the other respiratory viruses spread by droplet infection, can soon infect a community enjoying the social life of the winter holiday.

**NICK CORNISH**

**COUGHS AND SNEEZES**

Coughs and sneezes are still likely to spread diseases

**Pioneer of Parkinson's drug dies**

THE 100,000 people in Britain who suffer from Parkinson's disease should be giving thanks for the life of Dr Walther Birkmayer, the Austrian doctor whose work led to the introduction of the Levodopa drugs for the treatment of the disease. Dr Birkmayer died this week.

The Levodopa drugs are still the treatment of choice in most cases of established Parkinson's disease once it has become severe enough to interfere with normal life either at home or in the office.

## Feathered friends can make you ill

**AT bedtime 11-year-old Megan Bryant of Cheltenham spurns a teddy bear and cuddles up to her parrot.**

The medical jury is still out on whether sharing a bedroom, let alone a bed, with a caged bird predisposes one to lung cancer. Early surveys suggested a link between this rumour and bird fanciers who had a cage in their bedroom, but recent American studies have cast doubts on this.

Psittacosis, however, remains a potential hazard to anyone looking after pet birds, whether they are of the parrot family, pigeons or even chickens. And the closer the contact with the bird the more likely the person is to become infected. The responsible organism is *Chlamydia psittaci* and infection follows inhalation of small dried dusty particles of the birds' droppings. Blood tests on people who look after such birds show that many fanciers have had sub-clinical infections. Patients who become infected with psittacosis may develop an atypical pneumonia, with a high temperature, joint pains and flu-like symptoms; conversely they may have few chest signs despite other signs of a generalised infection which in these cases is often coupled with an enlarged liver and spleen. A long course of an appropriate antibiotic would clear the infection.

## Hot and bothered

**LIFE under the hooded dryer**

The Stockport doctors also suggested that the nervous control of the circulation in elderly women may be relatively inefficient and may react slowly to the environment under the hairdryer, and that the spot in the neck which controls blood pressure may conversely be hypersensitive.



The perils of the dryer

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# Stoker and his real-life Dracula

In the centenary year of *Dracula*'s publication, Daniel Farson reflects on the strange relationship between his great-uncle Bram Stoker and the actor-manager Sir Henry Irving

Years of *Dracula* have two reasons to celebrate in 1997. Not only does the novel's centenary fall this year, but it is also the 150th anniversary of the birth of Bram Stoker, the least-known author of one of the best-known books ever written.

The more I have learnt about Bram, the greater my compassion for the man who was my great-uncle — the brother of my grandfather, Tom. Hero-worshipping others, married to a cold beauty who had been engaged to Oscar Wilde, Stoker spent a lifetime in the wings, taken for granted by those he applauded so loyally, especially the actor Sir Henry Irving, who devoured his life. Dying in 1912, broke and broken, he had no inkling that he had created one of the myths of the 20th century, which has grown into an industry.

When I was a boy I read a yellow-bound first edition of *Dracula*, the title in scarlet letters, inscribed by Bram Stoker to my grandfather. I was so absorbed on top of a bus that the smiling conductor warned me I might have nightmares. She may not have read the novel but she knew all about it.

Everyone knows of *Dracula*, few of Stoker; let me share some family secrets. The question invariably asked is: how did Stoker, an otherwise indifferent author of 17 books, gain the inspiration for his masterpiece? Why was he fascinated by vampires?

His interest in the "un-dead" began in an early age during a childhood illness which confined him to his room for the first seven years of his life. His mother, Charlotte, told him bedtime stories of the cholera epidemic that reached Ireland in 1832, where she lived with her parents in Sligo. Her family barricaded themselves inside their fumigated home while neighbours were carried away and looters robbed the empty houses.

My grandmother, Edith Stoker, remembered Charlotte as a formidable woman who saw the hand of a looter reaching through a skylight on one of the last terrible days. Seizing an axe, she hacked it off with one tremendous blow. She was 24.

His unexplained childhood illness miraculously cured, Bram had grown into a huge, red-bearded athlete by the time he entered Trinity College, Dublin. If ever a man had conflicting personalities it was Bram. He had the courage to leap into the Thames to save a drowning man, for which he received the Royal Humane Society's medal for gallantry.

He was also keenly sensitive, championing Walt Whitman, who was condemned by the Trinity college hearths as "morally offensive". Reading his poems under a tree, Bram recorded: "From that

hour I became a lover of Walt Whitman." He wrote him a long letter, never posted, which was close to a declaration of mutual sympathy for everything the poet stood for, including the special rapport between men.

Following his father, Abraham, after whom he was named, Bram entered the Irish Civil Service and relieved the tedium by writing a horror serial for the *Shamrock Head*. The crucial turning-point came with his job as unpaid dramatic critic for the *Dublin Daily Mail* and his encounter with Henry Irving. The actor was nine years older and Bram, with his curious need to find a hero, reacted like a love-struck girl at their meeting.

Reviewing Irving's *Hamlet*, Stoker wrote: "In his fits of passion there is a realism that no one but a

staircase on the gala first night. Afterwards, Bram and Irving entertained in their private Beefsteak Room at the back of the theatre. It was here that he met Arminius Vambery, a Hungarian by birth and one of those remarkable adventurers in the Great Game who disguised themselves as dervishes to spy out the hand in Central Asia.

It was Vambery who told Stoker the vampire legends so rife in Transylvania.

How did Stoker create the character of Count Dracula? Christopher Lee, arguably the finest *Dracula* of all, identifies the character's fascination: "He is a superman with an erotic appeal to women, who find him totally alluring. He is everything people would like to be. Men are attracted because of the irresistible power he wields. For women, there is the complete abandonment to the power of a man." Irving, of course, was such a superman for Stoker, and Lee believes that he provided Stoker with the inspiration for his extraordinary hero.

Stoker opened his novel in Bistritz, Transylvania with the riveting scene in which Jonathan Harker is warned by the landlady of the Golden Krone not to leave, as it was Walpurgis Nachti when "all the evil things in the world have full sway".

When I visited Bistritz, I was woken by the sound of hammering and looked out a courtyard to see a carpenter assembling a coffin. The Borgo Pass was just as Bram described it, minus and all: "The road was cut through the pine woods that seemed in the darkness to be closing down upon us, great masses of greyness produced a peculiarly weird and solemn effect." What makes this so remarkable is that Bram never set foot in Transylvania. All he gleaned came from an early Baedeker guide and an exhibition of photographs in London. The rest was his imagination.

When the novel was published in 1897, the reception was mixed. The *Daily Mail* heralded it as "this weird, powerful and horrible story", but the *Athenaeum* was scathing: "It reads like a mere series of grotesquely incredible events." His mother was the most sagacious: "My dear, it is splendid. No book since Mrs Shelley's *Frankenstein* has come near yours in originality or terror. In its terrible excitement it should make a widespread reputation and much money for you."

Prophetic words — but though he wrote another ten books, he received neither fame nor fortune in his lifetime. The first printing was only 3,000 copies, and there were no reprints. It was the film starring Bela Lugosi that brought success and countless subsequent editions.

Bram continued to work for Irving, with the bonus that their



Sir Henry Irving, left, and his "victim" Bram Stoker

genius can ever effect." Flattered, Irving invited him to dinner at his hotel and recited Hood's melodramatic poem *The Dream of Eugene Aram* with such mesmeric power that Stoker was close to hysterical collapse. Irving staggered into his bedroom and emerged with a signed photograph for "My dear friend Stoker. God Bless You! God Bless You! Henry Irving, Dublin. December 3, 1876".

In those moments of our mutual emotion," wrote Bram years later, "he too had found a friend and leave it. Soul had looked into soul from that hour began a friendship as profound, as close, as lasting as can be between two men."

When Irving bought the Lyceum Theatre two years later, he telegraphed Bram asking him to be his acting manager. Bram accepted without hesitation, resigning from the secure drudgery of the Civil Service. Five days before joining Irving in Birmingham, on December 4, 1878, Bram married my great-aunt, Florence Balcombe, a beauty as chilly as marble with whom Oscar Wilde had previously been in love. Bram, with his reverence for the fair sex, placed her on a pedestal where she was happy to stay out of reach.

The handsome, red-bearded, Stoker became a familiar figure as he welcomed the greatest people of the time at the top of the Lyceum. Bram continued to work for Irving, with the bonus that their



Irresistible allure: the actor Christopher Lee, above, believes *Dracula* to be an erotic superman, fulfilling the fantasies of both men and women

American tours introduced him to his idol, Walt Whitman, but Irving was hopeless at business and Stoker unable to control him. The Fates take pleasure in changing sides and after so much glory it was time to pay. Irving fell after the opening night of *Richard III* and Bernard Shaw's review hinted at drunkenness. Bram had to put up the notice he dreaded: "The management regrets..." Money was needed desperately and every setback meant strain for Stoker. As the actress Ellen Terry noted: "For years Irving has accepted favours, obligations through Bram Stoker. Never will he acknowledge them himself." Now Irving betrayed him by accepting

an offer from another company. Always a gambler, Irving lost and found it impossible to admit his mistake. He used Stoker badly, yet I came across an envelope with a message scrawled in Irving's seismographic hand which was indecipherable except for: "You above all men whom I hold dear."

Stoker accompanied Irving on his farewell tour of the provinces. After a performance in Bradford, Irving did something unusual between two men who met each other daily. He held out his hand: "Muffle up your throat, old chap. Take care of yourself. God bless you!" An hour later, Stoker was summoned from his lodgings to find Irving dead on the floor, his

valet in tears beside him. After carrying his body upstairs and found it impossible to admit his mistake. He used Stoker badly, yet I came across an envelope with a message scrawled in Irving's seismographic hand which was indecipherable except for: "You above all men whom I hold dear."

A year later Bram suffered a slight stroke, which left him with a limp and damaged his eyesight. Two million pounds had passed through his hands when he managed the Lyceum, but now he was broke. He became increasingly eccentric, taking my mother to a royal procession when she was 13 and started the crowd by handing round oranges from a paper bag.

At the end of his life, in 1912, Bram returned to Cruden Bay, north of Aberdeen, where he wrote so much of *Dracula*. He could not

afford a hotel but rented a cottage. He must have thought himself a failure. Never had he received the recognition he deserved — not even a degree from his old college in Dublin, which honoured Irving and even Vambery.

I should like to imagine that as he limped across Cruden sands with his stout walking-stick, he remembered Count Dracula's snarling cry as he turns on his pursuers in Piccadilly: "You think you have left me without a place to rest, but I have more. My revenge is just begun. I spread it over the centuries and time is on my side."

With the arrival of *Dracula*'s centenary, this should be Stoker's year as well.

Kathryn Knight prepares for a hot date

## How I set my world on fire



Cary Grant lights up romance — the Hollywood way

out to frogmarch my date away as I didn't actually know what he looked like.

Twenty minutes later, I was saved by a dark-haired, green-eyed vision striding my way. There was no time for coquettishness. Before you could say, "Mine's a gin and tonic" I had whisked him away towards a cozy French brasserie, babbling about bosses and workmates and "seen enough of them all week".

THINGS were looking up. The lighting was as planned, the food was good. More to the point, he was looking good. By the main course I was imagining myself in yards of bridal chiffon — when a single movement brought an end to the dream.

I had casually extracted a cigarette from the packet and was about to strike an elegant match when the box fell on the floor. As I bent to rescue it, my head made contact with the candle on the table. The soft flame flickered over my hair and transformed it into something not unlike *Towering Inferno*.

"Christ," shrieked the date, banging his hand against my forehead in an attempt to put me out. Unsure whether I was bald and/or charred, I made a dash to the ladies for a hasty restoration job. How do you re-enter a room with any dignity under such circumstances? I took the steps in as casual a fashion as I could muster. But it seemed the man of my dreams had undergone a strange change of heart. Muttering something along the lines of "already involved, it'd be great to meet up as friends," he called for the bill within minutes — and we exited into the cold London night and separate taxis. I haven't heard from him since.

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## Great lives well told

Magnus Linklater on the best four biographies of last year

**S**hall we see greatness in 1997? Not just a man or woman of the year, but someone memorable enough to stand the test of time, to qualify, let's say, for a biography, written ten, 100 or even 400 years after their death. The thought is prompted, not by the controversy over the *Today* award, but by the announcement this morning Monday of the winner of the Whitbread Biography of the Year. The shortlist runs from a life of Thomas Cranmer (died 1553) to Samuel Beckett (died 1989), via Queen Caroline (1821) and George Eliot (1880). This disparate collection emerged from a far longer list of 65 books, all published in 1996, and, as one of the exhausted judges who took part in a three-month reading marathon, I can testify to one thing at least: there is no such thing as a short biography.

There is also no such thing as an easy test of what constitutes a great life. In each book that caught the attention of the judges, it was the skill and insight of the biographer that proved at least as important as the significance of the subject. No one would claim that Caroline of Brunswick and the scandals that marked her turbulent marriage to George IV could be weighed on the same scale of history as the achievements of Archbishop Cranmer, who helped to forge the Reformation and was martyred for his faith. Nor can one guarantee that future generations will judge *Krapp's Last Tape* with the same measure of enthusiasm as we now accord *The Mill on the Floss*. But in each case the author has wrought something of moment from the various lives, turning biography into history.

This is as it should be. Our views of the past have always been deeply influenced by the chroniclers of famous people. Emerson once wrote: "There is properly no history; only biography," and Disraeli, his exact contemporary, felt the same. "Read no history; nothing but biography, for that is life without theory," he wrote. Boswell's *Life of Johnson*, Lockhart's of Walter Scott, Lyndon Strachey's *Eminent Victorians*, or more recently, Michael Holroyd on Strachey himself, or Richard Ellman on Oscar Wilde, have all presented a picture whose definition is so sharp that it has formed the opinion of a generation, while telling us more of the social history of the period than any number of historical textbooks.

What emerges may not be entirely objective, because no good biographer is ever fully detached from his subject. The process of delving deep into the passionate nature of a human being is ultimately more rewarding than the precise circumstances of his birth, death, marriage or doctoral thesis, and attempting to maintain the balance between both rarely succeeds. "How on earth does one explain mad-

One quality runs through all these books — courage

Nothing could be further from the deeply serious and troubled life of George Eliot, whom Rosemary Ashton describes as the most unconventional woman of the Victorian age. Despite the fact that she had rejected her religion and was living in sin, "her natural feeling was longing to agree as far as possible". Assailed by guilt, and miserable when rejected by conventional society, she was nevertheless unable to ignore the driving forces of her own nature. She became, as Professor Ashton puts it, an "internal exile"; just as Samuel Beckett, for most of his life, was an exile of another kind, straddling the cultures of France and his native Ireland, never quite a part of either, yet always his own man. James Knowles recounts how Beckett joined the resistance as much because of his disgust for Nazi anti-Semitism as any patriotic feelings towards his adopted country.

Looking back on the books we chose, I realise that one quality runs through all four. It is courage — not just the courage to confront physical danger, to defy convention, to stick to personal beliefs, to remain true to one's nature, to ignore the easy route of conformity. Whether these alone amount to greatness I doubt. But at a time when principle in public life is all too often sacrificed in the interests of popularity, they make a pretty good start.

With peace a still distant dream, Paul Bew analyses the Unionist endgame in this Parliament

**W**ill the Ulster Unionists hasten the downfall of the John Major Government? There are some Ulster Unionist MPs — notably John Taylor, the deputy leader, and Ken Maginnis, the Fermanagh and S Tyrone MP — who give the impression of being keen to do just that. Sour personal relations with leading members of the Government play a key role here, but, more important, is the feeling that the Unionists should gain as much credit as possible with an incoming Blair government. Tony Blair, after all, has done much to reduce Unionist apprehension of a Labour victory.

The answer is that one cannot. And sometimes the evidence to go on is so slight that it is like reconstructing a tyrannosaurus from a single fossilised claw. Diarmuid McCullough, in the introduction to his life of Cranmer, says that in more than 300 letters of Cranmer's which survive, there is only one mention of his wife and children. Yet by the end, what reaches us across 400 years is the human dimension of the subject, the frailty of a man confronted with the terror of martyrdom and his courage at the moment of death.

Defiance would be a more appropriate way of describing the quality that emerges from Flora Fraser's biography of Queen Caroline, whose story parallels that of our own dear Princess of Wales so closely that one has to pinch oneself occasionally to remember that one is reading about the early 19th century rather than something from Nigel Dempster's gossip column. A life of relentless royal bickering is redeemed by the sheer resilience of a woman thrown into a loveless marriage and subjected to endless humiliation by an Establishment intent on destroying her.

So, the argument runs, why should

Labour policy review had decided to offer Dublin power, as opposed to the current high level of consultation, in Northern Ireland.

The signals being sent five years later are rather different. This is partly a tribute to the modernising spirit of new Labour but it is, above all, a tribute to the change in political discourse effected by the Downing Street declaration of December 1993 and the framework documents of 1995. Unionists dislike many aspects of these documents — signed by the British and Irish Governments — but one thing is clear: they rule out a role for Britain as a persuader for Irish unity. They also lay great emphasis on the need for the agreement of the local parties. New Labour's absolutely wholehearted embrace of the Downing Street declaration logically implies the end of a policy which even hints that Labour might be a persuader for Irish unity.

So, the argument runs, why should

David Trimble's nine Ulster Unionist MPs not make common cause with Labour in the lobbies? In fact, it is not likely to happen. There are still, despite everything, warm relations between some senior Tories and Ulster Unionists. Two of Mr Trimble's parliamentary colleagues, Sir James Molyneaux and Willie Ross, were elected in 1990 as Conservative and Unionist MPs. Both are emotionally pro-Tory; it is difficult to see them bringing down the Government. The very size of Labour's poll lead counts the Ulster Unionists to wait for a moment, which is likely to bring about a Government with a smaller majority. The more that John Hume and Gerry Adams call for an early election, the more Unionists are likely to stay their hand. They no longer expect significant policy movements by this Government either to their advantage or disadvantage; but there is at the margins a certain amount of business to be done.

Mr Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, has a lot riding on the next Westminster election. The Forum election results in Northern Ireland in May 1995, which left his party with 30 seats against the Paisleyite Democratic Unionist Party's 24 seats, was not a great personal triumph. The growing inter-communal bitterness in the province since the end of the IRA ceasefire may be working to the DUP's advantage. Mr Trimble will, however, still hope to gain at least one seat. His recent deal with Sir James Goldsmith should be seen partly in this context. Goldsmith's financial generosity should, at least, assist a better presentation of the Ulster Unionist case in the next few months. Nevertheless, it has left a legacy of irritation within Mr Trimble's own party, even intense Euro-sceptics complain about lack of consultation. Mr Trimble's honeymoon as leader is definitely over. Yet it is worth noting that for all his reputation as an errant

hardliner, he has skilfully not foreclosed absolutely on the possibility of a negotiated settlement of the Ulster crisis.

But, of course, much here depends on the dialectic of republican-loyalist violence and — while there are clearly restraining forces at work on both sides — the omens here are not good. Mr Adams seems to be determined to avoid any form of republican split at any price, even though the balance of forces within the republican movement no longer sustains the strategy embodied in the 1994-95 peace process. More importantly, Mr Adams may have missed the moment for the one decisive move which could have transformed the situation. This is not the acceptance of the principle that majority consent in Northern Ireland is required before there can be Irish unity — that was always asking the republican movement for too much — but a republican acceptance that war would no longer be waged against this principle.

In more optimistic times a few months ago, Dr Marjorie Mowlam, Labour's spokeswoman on Northern Ireland, in an effort to assist the peace process, argued that the status quo "was not an option". It is beginning to look as if the status quo — direct rule with a green tinge — is the only option.

● Professor Paul Bew is Parnell Fellow at Magdalene College, Cambridge

## Dancing to the Orange flute

## Too late for the Comeback Kid?

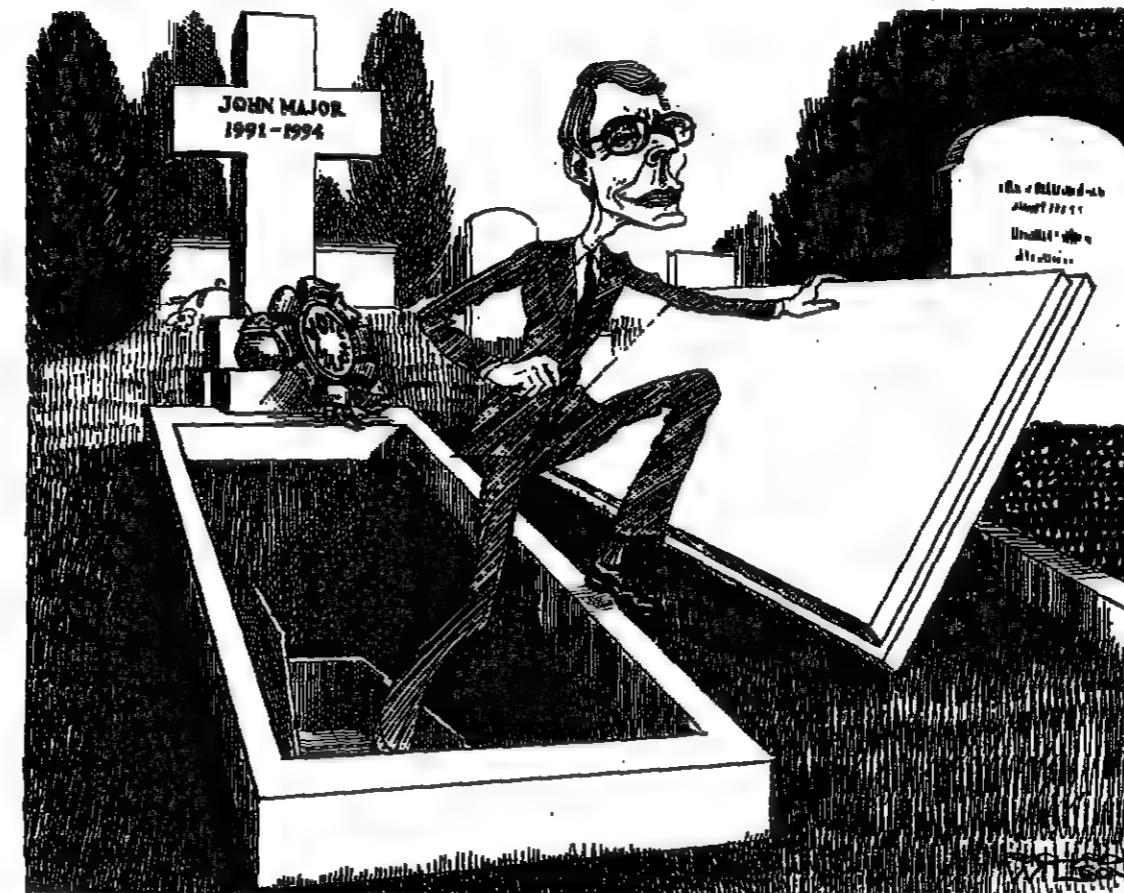
**J**ohn Major's performance has improved. But it may not be enough to win

**T**here is a case to be made for John Major. I am one of those commentators who has been a disillusioned supporter of his. I wanted him to become Prime Minister after, but only after, Margaret Thatcher had been rejected. I became disillusioned by the errors of his first three years in government, particularly by the loss of control of public expenditure, by the mishandling of the recession, by the commitment to an unsustainable rate for sterling in the exchange-rate mechanism, by the signing of the Maastricht treaty and its brutal whipping through a reluctant Parliament. By 1993 I had come to regard him as a disappointing Prime Minister.

The case for Mr Major now rests on the past three years. They have seen a period of economic recovery, better control of expenditure and a Cabinet shift on Europe. If one rules a line at January 1 1994, and judges him as Prime Minister on his performance after that, his record undeniably looks much better. "Yes, we made a mess of it. Now we're getting it right" may not be much of an election slogan, but it would have some credibility.

If one thinks that his performance was acceptable in the first three years and excellent in the next three — and many Conservatives do think that — there will be no problem in voting for him at the general election. If one thinks that his performance was disappointing in his first three years, but acceptable in the second three, there is still evidence of a learning curve. Prime Ministers have to be trained on the job. We now have an experienced Prime Minister, whom everyone acknowledges to be an honest and likeable man. Why should the electors switch to Tony Blair, who will also learn by making mistakes, some of which could well be as serious as those Mr Major made in 1991 and 1992?

In the election campaign, Mr Major will need to persuade the electorate that this learning curve can continue upwards. If voters think he will be a successful Prime Minister in the future, they may vote to re-elect him, whichever way they take of his past performance. Three election issues are already prominent in the



public mind. The first, which could be an insuperable obstacle however well Mr Major campaigns, is that it is "time for a change". Many Conservative voters themselves accept the force of this argument. After four Parliaments and 18 years, it would be good for democracy to have a Labour government.

This argument is reinforced by the fact that no one under 40 has now voted in a general election which actually produced a Labour government. The Wilson and Callaghan governments left a sour taste in the mouth, but not in the mouths of those who were children when Mrs Thatcher became Prime Minister.

One aspect of this argument will not swing many votes, but it is worrying. I do not think that Mr Blair could survive defeat; I think that old Labour would turn on him, his people and his ideas. That would mean a Labour Party split in 2002, or a Labour government that would try to undo most of the sensible things that have been done since 1979. Yet people will not be voting for the benefit of prosperity. If voters consider that the leadership of Mr Major and the policies of the Conservative Party will be best for themselves and for the country in the last years of the 1990s, they will give the Conservatives another turn in office.

The other two well-defined, or at least well-discussed, issues are the economy and Europe. I do not recognise the description of the economy as it is given by either party. There was nothing exceptional about the British economy in 1996, but things have been going reasonably well, as they usually do at this stage of a cyclical recovery. Subject to the American recovery, which had started earlier and has gone on longer, this British recovery may have two or three years to run. It is about the same stage as the recovery of the late 1980s was in 1987. That helped the Conservatives to the election of that year. The 1980s recovery peaked in 1989 and the recession started in 1990.

The Conservatives have not discovered a magic mushroom which would transform a cyclical recovery into steady non-inflationary growth. Interest rates will have to rise, and the sooner the better. Kenneth Clarke is not the greatest Chancellor since Neville Chamberlain, or William Gladstone or the younger Pitt. He is a solidly responsible performer with a remarkably little reforming zeal — a sound but uninspired Chancellor. On the other hand, the Labour description of Britain's recent economic performance is wholly incredible. At this stage of the cycle, at least, Britain has one of the best economic performances in Europe, which one would not exchange for the German, French, Italian or Spanish performances, with their high costs, high taxes and high unemployment.

Europe really does illustrate the learning curve of Prime Ministers. Mrs Thatcher herself, though muddled as she was, took time to recognise the realities of Europe. Mr Major came into office after Mrs Thatcher had been turned out on the European issue, and believed that an understanding with Germany could take Britain to the heart of Europe. It did not do much. Mr Blair does not have as many *Euro-illusions* as Gordon Brown, but a Labour government would probably a softer option for the European federalists, as Klaus Kinkel expects. My own view is that Mr Blair would become more realistic about Europe within months, but those would be dangerous months, just as Mr Major's first months were.

So far, the case for Mr Major looks

reasonably solid. Whatever view one takes of his early performance, he is now an experienced and prudent Prime Minister, if not visionary. The time-for-a-change argument is partly for the benefit of posterity; what the electorate wants is another five years of jobs and prosperity. The economy is improving. The Conservatives are the party of national interest rather than appeasement on European issues. There is quite a good fit between these arguments and the current views of the electorate. On top of this, Mr Major's image had become an asset. Other Prime Ministers have had brighter plumage, but he has a genuine affinity with the British elector.

There seem to be three problems. Two are the big social services, health and education. Both are underfunded, health to the point of breakdown. The reluctance of the electorate to pay more taxes means that there is no money to fund them more adequately.

At some point the logic of this will probably force politicians to move to plural funding, expanding the private sector in both health and education, through charitable support, insurance and personal contributions. More than half of all taxpayers could afford to contribute more towards the services as they use them, and a plural funded system could provide the better services that people demand. No one wants underpaid professors or oversized classes. No one wants to die on a trolley in a hospital corridor.

**B**ritish politics is not yet ready for the privatisation of health and education which may become inevitable in the first decade of the next century. The Conservatives are not foolish enough to propose something still so unacceptable. The public may believe that Labour can solve the conundrum of more money for health and education without raising taxes. They know the Conservatives cannot.

The final challenge to Mr Major's electoral prospect is Mr Blair. Mrs Thatcher herself, though muddled as she was, took time to recognise the realities of Europe. Mr Major came into office after Mrs Thatcher had been turned out on the European issue, and believed that an understanding with Germany could take Britain to the heart of Europe. It did not do much. Mr Blair does not have as many *Euro-illusions* as Gordon Brown, but a Labour government would probably a softer option for the European federalists, as Klaus Kinkel expects. My own view is that Mr Blair would become more realistic about Europe within months, but those would be dangerous months, just as Mr Major's first months were.

So far, the case for Mr Major looks

## More ritz



The Sultan of Brunei and his wives favouring St Moritz

**T**HE PRINCE of Wales may have chosen Klosters with Tiggy and Tara again this year. Roger Moore may remain loyal to Gstaad — but the Sultan of Brunei favours St Moritz as his winter playground. The world's richest man has just rented the former Shah of Iran's old villa in the glitzy resort, where real fur and designer salopettes are *de rigueur*. The head of the tiny but fabulously rich petroleum kingdom is spending a phenomenal sum refurbishing the villa which was built at the beginning of the century and bought by the Shah of Iran, Reza Pahlavi, in 1967. Hardly your average chalet, the

19-room mountain retreat was rented by the Italian media magnate Silvio Berlusconi for 11 years. Urs Schwarzenbach, the Swiss financier, a friend of the Sultan, later bought the property for 19 million francs (about £8 million).

Both the Sultan's wives have

### Snowed under

**S**OUNDS of Mrs Mop revving up her vacuum cleaner backstage at Sadler's Wells (now based at the Peacock Theatre) in preparation for the arrival of Slava Polunin's *Snowshow* later this month. The high point of Polunin's surreal performance is an acrobatic snow storm that leaves the audience knee-deep in thousands of tiny scraps of paper. Everyone agrees the effect is magical, except of course the unfortunate who spends three hours sweeping up the stalls daily.

**Game for it**

PUNDITS will be playing a new board game this year. General

**• The Ealing-based record company Black Hat Records is proudly publicising a new album by a group called Loser. This would seem to be an apt title. The information volunteered is that one member's previous musical experience extends to his once having been hired to mime with Donny Osmond on a European tour and that another member of the band's musical background embraces only "watching Top of the Pops".**

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**Game for it**

PUNDITS will be playing a new board game this year. General



**That was a big ambition," Mitterrand said. "And by the way, those legs in *Pretty Woman*; they were certainly her legs, weren't they?"**

**Girl talk**

**O**N THE eve of the first anniversary of François Mitterrand's death, a new biography suggests that he was true to himself to the last. The journalist Jean-Marc Benamou was present at Mitterrand's last supper with family and friends on New Year's Eve 1995, eight days before the President died. Was the great man concerned about European Union or unemployment in France? Not quite. His conversation, Benamou reports, turned largely on Julia Roberts and a dinner he had once had with her.

**King fung**

**A**MONSTER truffle was sacrificed at a special New Year's Eve dinner in Hong Kong for 120 guests. The 200z Italian fungus was bought for HK\$40,000 (about £3,000) by a local hotel, outbidding chefs in Milan, New York, Paris and Tokyo. "It is wonderful to find this, it is like a dinosaur egg from *Jurassic Park*," said Mario Carmella, chef at the Grand Stamford Harbour View Hotel. "Santa Claus brought me this truffle because I have been a good chef."

**• Paul McCartney is not the only rock legend to receive high honour. The craggy-faced rock-star Johnny Hallyday, who has been boozing out songs for more than three decades, has been nominated for France's highest civilian award: the Legion d'Honneur.**

**Old King Soul**

**T**HE HORDES of walling teenagers may have deserted him but for the American actor David Soul,

blond half of television's original cop duo *Starsky and Hutch*, the show must go on. These days, fraying slightly at the edges, a mellowed Hutch piles the London party circuit, where he often gives impromptu piano performances of hits such as *Don't Give Up On Us* and *Silver Lady*. Now 53, Soul is taking to the road again to promote his next album, due out in February. Twenty years on, his fans may wave pension books instead of cigarette lighters, but Soul is philosophical about his waning celebrity. "Celebrity is like ice cream," he says. "It melts."

**P-H-S**



## A SHOT AT PEACE

Hebron has become a metaphor for Arab-Israeli confrontation

For a dreadful instant in Hebron yesterday Noam Friedman, the off-duty Israeli conscript who emptied the magazine of his machinegun into the crowded marketplace, stood as symbol for all the tensions and hatreds that form the backdrop to the protracted renegotiation of Israel's promised withdrawal from most of this West Bank city. The ensuing panic was not confined to Friedman's Palestinian targets, seven of whom were wounded. Before he was overpowered, the immediate reaction of police and soldiers guarding the nearby Jewish enclave in the city's heart, which has been recently been targeted by petrol-bombers, was to open fire in the mistaken belief that this was a Palestinian attack.

This could all too easily have escalated into a repeat of September's dreadful gun battles in Jerusalem. The speed with which calm was restored, thanks to improved cooperation between the Israeli military and the Palestinian police, is encouraging proof that both sides have learnt from that disaster — and that the lesson has been absorbed not only by those charged with keeping order, but by their political masters.

Just as Yassir Arafat was quick to telephone Binyamin Netanyahu early last month, to condemn the murder of a woman and her son at the Beit El settlement, so Mr Netanyahu immediately contacted Mr Arafat, and followed through by sternly and publicly insisting that, no act of violence would stand in the way of a Hebron deal. Better still, Mr Netanyahu — who for months has appeared to be in no hurry to agree fresh terms for a redeployment that he used bitterly to oppose — is now insisting that delay can only "provoke and create conditions" for this sort of atrocity.

Friedman's attempt to abort the Hebron deal by violence may thus have the opposite effect, spurring the two sides to a final negotiating effort. But it is a reminder to Mr

Netanyahu of the forces he has to control within his own broad governing coalition. Last week, a group of radical rabbis called on 'Israeli soldiers' to dispense orders to withdraw from Hebron. One of these, Rabbi Eliezer Waldmann, runs a religious school for youths serving in the army.

To a deeply religious young conscript such as Friedman, their words may have inspired his crime; inflammatory edicts issued under the cover of religion should be as offensive to a law-abiding country as the bombs of Palestinian terrorists. Friedman has been denounced even by the militant Jewish Council of Settlements, which opposes further withdrawals from the biblical lands of ancient Israel; but his act is an outgrowth of their uniting of religious Judaism with territorial irredentism. Mr Netanyahu won a democratic mandate last May to place greater stress on Israel's security as he proceeds to implement the Oslo peace process. He was not elected to put it permanently on ice; yet he will make little headway without confronting both the extreme religious right and those in Likud who adhere to the party's long-held doctrine that the primordial biblical lands cannot and must not be traded for peace.

This he seems increasingly to recognise, as he prepares to outflank opposition within his Cabinet to the Hebron redeployment by direct resort to the Knesset. Mr Arafat would be unwise to complicate his course by insisting on written guarantees and timetable for the next step. Israeli troop withdrawals from villages and rural areas of the West Bank. An American note spelling out the obligations of both sides should suffice. Mr Netanyahu would prefer to move directly to "final stage" talks; that too deserves serious Palestinian consideration. With extremists on both sides so ready to sabotage each small step, it may well be wiser to proceed on all fronts at the same time.

## TRUMAN AND MARSHALL

Fifty years ago: Americans chose global leadership. What now?

A set of dramatic decisions taken in 1947 confirmed the onset of the Cold War. With them came the transformation of the United States into an internationalist superpower. Two men in particular offered the leadership necessary to mobilise a great nation. On March 12, 1947, President Truman stood before a Republican-led Congress and appealed for military aid for Greece and Turkey. He went beyond that request to argue: "I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures."

Two months earlier, Truman had bravely appointed General George C. Marshall, a man whose popularity and prestige far outranked his own, as Secretary of State. On June 5, 1947, Marshall used a Commencement Address at Harvard University to outline a European Recovery Programme. This unprecedented plan for generous economic assistance would save a continent and bear Marshall's name. The intellectual reasoning behind Washington's new strategy was contained in a justly celebrated anonymous article in the journal *Foreign Affairs* that same year. It came from the pen of George Kennan, a senior State Department official. Totalitarianism could, he argued, be checked and then defeated by "long-term, patient but firm and vigilant containment". The institutional consequences were recognised in the creation by the US Congress of the Department of Defense, the National Security Council and the Central Intelligence Agency. With the birth of Nato two years later, all the essential elements that would guide the democracies through the Cold War had been put in place. The wisdom shown in 1947 was



rewarded, four decades later, by the collapse of the Soviet empire.

Compared with the boldness shown in 1947, the response of Western nations to the end of the Cold War has been puny. That has been particularly true of the Clinton Administration, whose sole institutional innovation — the National Economic Council — exists to ease international relations for short-term economic and trade advantage. Nato, meanwhile, is blundering towards a hasty and ill-conceived expansion.

George Bush perceived the need for a New World Order after the Gulf War but never quite managed to explain exactly what this ought to be or to entail. Uncertainty has deepened since he left the White House. For Bill Clinton and most Democrats, foreign policy now represents a vast employment promotion exercise. The inconsistencies in Bob Dole's approach to external questions in the last presidential campaign reflected a wider, and disturbing, breakdown of consensus in Republican ranks. This would matter, less if others, notably in Europe, were capable of extending their horizons to meet the new challenges. In reality, the grand language of federalism and integration marks an introspection, bordering on insularity, and a frequent preference for protectionism.

Fifty years ago there was an obvious threat that permitted Truman and Marshall to reconstruct American foreign policy. But there was also the political will to ignore the electorally expedient. Circumstances may be different today, but the need for intelligent, principled American leadership is no less pressing. If Mr Clinton wishes to give proof of that in his second term, a rethink of Nato's expansion would be a good starting point.

## BROUGHT TO BOOK

Computers can never replace the pleasure of the printed page

"A good book is the best of friends, the same today and for ever." How often has this 19th-century commonplace been inscribed over public libraries or written on the flyleaves of presentation volumes. And how gleefully have futurologists pronounced it dead, swept away by the forward march of the computer and the replacement of books by CD-Rom. Martin Tupper, who coined the phrase, has the last laugh, however: a survey by the Policy Studies Institute shows that people are buying more books, and that the fashion for transferring the written word to plastic disks has had little impact on the market for old-fashioned printed books.

Almost half those asked said they were currently reading a book for pleasure, a proportion barely changed in the last six years. People spent more time reading than they did indulging in the two other British obsessions, gardening and DIY. Some 30 per cent of those surveyed had bought 16 or more books in the past year, compared to 28 per cent in 1989. And although almost a third of British households now own a computer, only a fraction have the "multi-media" capacity to run CD-Roms. Of those that did, most used it for work and half for playing games; a quarter used CD-Roms for reference and very few for general reading.

The reason should be obvious to all those who have touted computer literacy as the road to the future. They have only to reflect

on Trollope's opinion that "of all the needs a book has the chief need is that it be readable" to realise that he was speaking not only figuratively. If a book cannot be stuffed in a pocket or left beside a bed, it can hardly claim to be readable, however limp its prose. You cannot scroll through a Ruth Rendell on a warm beach if sand in the works leaves you forever in suspense. Nor can you bury your head in a computerised Rousseau on the Underground without fearing that man's natural state may be abruptly terminated by a crowd piling on at Holborn.

Multi-media advocates argue that computers will become cheaper, pocket-sized like the paperbacks they will replace, and voice-activated so that a lazy reader can simply order them to turn the page. Barbara Cartland CD-Rom-ances can be drawn by telephone from a computer library and printed out, page by page or chapter by chapter according to your appetite for handsome screen and swooning heroines.

A good book, however, is a form of art, in which typography, illustrations and mangled endpapers combine to produce a work that is as aesthetically pleasing as its contents are nourishing. No jazzy illustration pasted on the plastic CD-Rom cover can be as beautiful. Nor can spluttering at a screen ever have the same cathartic effect as scrawling "preposterous" in the margins of an offending paperback.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XX Telephone 0171-732 5000

### Curbing directors' right to silence

From Mr A. S. Minns

Mr. Piers Ashworth, QC, in what strikes me as an attack on the right of us all to remain silent when accused (letter, December 27), believes that those who trade with the benefit of limited liability should be stripped of the common-law privilege against self-incrimination. He argues that because a company is an "artificial body" created by statute a director should not expect the same human rights as everyone else.

May I remind Mr Ashworth that the principal fiduciary duties on a director to behave with probity imposed by the common law. Since directors face the obligations, it is not illogical that they should also receive the protection of the common law.

Mr. Ashworth exempts from his would-be Orwellian regime those business people who risk all their assets — as "most professionals are (rightly) compelled to do". However, professionals (including those in his own profession) take out insurance cover for such risks and thereby keep their personal assets protected.

Those who are frightened that their insurance cover will not suffice commonly put their personal assets into family trusts or transfer them to their spouses. In the case of the international accountancy firms, they may try to transfer their businesses to off-shore limited liability partnerships.

Requiring people to talk in police cells has a wholly unduly track record where it has been practised. The UK consistently loses human-rights cases before the European courts. It will be a tragedy if the protection of our basic human rights is abandoned by our judiciary and senior lawyers and has to be left to Europe to enforce.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY MINNS (Chairman),  
MM & K Limited (financial advisors),  
1 Bengal Court, Birch Lane, EC2.

### Academy cash crisis

From Mr Nicholas A. H. Stacey

Sir, Companies have for long been exhorted to elect non-executive directors to their boards. The proved advantages of such "outsiders" is their independence and wealth of experience gathered elsewhere.

The symbiosis of these two qualities gives non-executives a wide perspective; their effectiveness, if well chosen, can be seminal. One may ask why such a good example of the corporate world in mingling insiders with outsiders in the boardroom has not been followed more closely by professionals.

The recently surfaced sad confusion about money at the Royal Academy of Arts — running into deficit and failing to publish annual accounts for over a decade (letters, December 13, 23) — could have been avoided had the Academicians recruited among their members two or three colleagues with commercial experience.

Some professional bodies, such as accountants and lawyers, have members with considerable business experience on their governing bodies; but, I guess, numerous professional societies, associations and institutions in the arts and sciences are devoid of what many now consider as necessary commercial nous for running an organisation. The remedy is at hand.

Yours sincerely,  
NICHOLAS A. H. STACEY,  
Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1.

### Millennium challenge

From Mr and Mrs Ian Hall

Sir, We are struck by the contrast between the Tokyo International Forum (Arts, December 30) and the feeble attempts to produce a building in the UK to mark the millennium. Why does the Millennium Commission persist with the polluted site near London, the preparation costs of which must equal those of the buildings themselves. Who can blame the private sector for its reluctance to back such a project?

Plenty of sites exist north of Watford for a design to challenge that of Tokyo, and plenty of entrepreneurs to fund it. The UK has some of the best architects and engineers in the world. They would welcome the challenge.

May we propose a new year's resolution for the commission? To grasp the nettle and start again.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN HALL,  
(Architects (retired)),  
The Cottage, Lower Snowden,  
Bunhill Green, South Staffordshire.

### The Times and Iran

From Mr Mohammad Safaei

Sir, Reading your report and leading article (December 16) on US preparations for military strikes against Iran, I cannot help feeling that *The Times* is intent on creating tension in the Persian Gulf region.

May I reiterate what has been declared on numerous occasions, that Iran condemns all terrorist actions, regardless of the motive, time, place and the victims involved.

During the last year, *The Times* has reported a number of accusations against Iran — for instance on the explosion in Jeddah and the crash of a

### Moral excellence in Catholic schools

From the Reverend Leo Chamberlain, OSB, Headmaster of Ampleforth College

Sir, William Rees Mogg's friendly article of December 25, "Religious schools against the world" (letters, December 30), pursues important questions. But the dividing line between Ampleforth as a Catholic school, and others is not, as he suggests, simply over the teaching of morality based on religion as against a moral relativism, important though that is.

An education in faith and virtue is about the whole of life and death. Catholic schools attempt this vision for all, not just as an option for a few. Ampleforth College, where the monastic community and the lay teaching staff co-operate at every level, is the work of Ampleforth Abbey, a living community of faith. This cannot be compared with the provision of a chaplain, or with arrangements to take children out to Mass, as refugees from their secular environment.

Mr. Ashworth exempts from his would-be Orwellian regime those business people who risk all their assets — as "most professionals are (rightly) compelled to do". However, professionals (including those in his own profession) take out insurance cover for such risks and thereby keep their personal assets protected.

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I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,  
LEO CHAMBERLAIN,  
Headmaster,  
Ampleforth College, York,  
December 30.

From Mr R. H. A. Brodhurst

Sir, I had the considerable privilege of teaching at Ampleforth from 1985 to 1990. As an Anglican my initial preconceptions and doubts were swept aside by the faith of the whole community, both Abbey and school. Their holistic approach is surely at the heart of all the best schools, both maintained and independent Catholic and Anglican.

Education which concentrates on exam-passing is not education. All schools should prepare their pupils for life by giving them a firm foundation based on religious morality. To fail to do so is to fail to educate our charges.

All believers, including our young, need the support of communities of faith. This is ever more so today; social attitudes towards religious faith are very different from forty years ago. This gives a particular point both to ecumenical endeavour, to which we

are committed, and to our educational effort.

There is no contradiction between religious and academic excellence. Theology should be taught to the same intellectual level as other subjects, and with a priority in the timetable. At many schools, and especially in the over-crowded GCSE years, it is abandoned.

Catholic schools must look to the highest academic standards: students need the best examination results they can get. In Catholic schools with a wide range of ability, the ablest do brilliantly and others frequently do better than they ever imagined possible.

Yours etc.  
LEO CHAMBERLAIN,  
Headmaster,  
Ampleforth College, York,  
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### Slang as origin of the gift of tongues

From Mr Peter Stockill

Sir, Jesse Jackson does a disservice to African Americans by condemning black American English or Ebonics (report, December 24). African Americans have their own musical culture, from blues to rap. Now they can be seen as having their own language. They have enriched music and now they are enriching language.

Language is central to a people's notion of self-worth. The vociferous campaigning by members of the Welsh Language Society is an indication of how language is perceived as a stepping-stone to nationhood. Why shouldn't African American slang be seen as an incipient new language? Perhaps "slangauge" is a necessary precursor to a new language, just as Afrikaans originated as an informal version of Dutch. Pidgin English and Creole are valid languages in their own right, giving racial groups a sense of dignity.

English is a hybrid language, drawing upon the cultures of people who have come to these islands. American English has been enriched by Spanish-speaking and Irish people, among many others. People from Africa settled in America, albeit unwillingly, long before the waves of 19th-century European immigration. Yours sincerely,  
PETER STOCKILL  
6 Brunner House,  
Langridge Crescent,  
Berwick Hills, Middlesbrough.  
December 27.

### Britain's diverse faiths

From Mr Anil Savani

Sir, Mr Karim Chowdhury (letter, December 30) on the one hand suggests that tolerance means "respecting the rights of others to practise their ways" and on the other hand congratulates the outrageous behaviour of a teacher who reduced children performing in a school carol concert to tears.

What enrages me is the insistence of some Muslims to be "obstinate" in pursuing practices which are offensive to the majority of people in countries where they are in a minority. In countries such as Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, the appalling intolerance and persecution of non-Muslim minorities by the State does not prompt criticism or invite pleas for respecting the rights of others from the likes of Mr Chowdhury.

Contrast this to the tolerance shown by Hindus, both here and in India — a country which has been over backwards and even modified its constitution to accommodate the special religious and legal requirements of the Muslim tradition.

Yours etc.  
ANIL SAVANI,  
38 Morley Crescent West,  
Stanmore, Middlesex.  
December 30.

From Mr R. K. Holland

Sir, Mr Chowdhury is to be congratulated on his proud, understated comments on "contamination" and "practices of falsehood and lies" in defence of his faith.

He has surely shown himself to be a true believer and can be seen to be upholding Islam's modern image in its regard for other faiths and the world in general. God Bless Us, Every One!

Yours sincerely,  
R. K. HOLLAND,  
17 Hobart Road,  
Dewsbury, West Yorkshire.  
December 30.

### Yesterday's men

From Mr

## SOCIAL NEWS

The Princess Royal will attend the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association Annual Awards Dinner at the Churchill Inter-Continental, London W1, on Tuesday, January 7.

### Birthdays today

Mr David Bailey, photographer, 59; Mr N.H. Baring, chairman, Commercial Union Assurance, 63; Sir Richard Bayliss, former Physician to the Queen, 80; Mr Leopold Brook, former chairman, Simon Engineering, 85; Mr Christopher Campbell, chairman, British Shipbuilding, 61; Duke of Devonshire, KG, 77; Professor Sir Kingsley Dunham, FRS, geologist, 87; Mr Walter Harrison, former MP, 76; Miss Hilary Heffron, QC, 48; Sir Michael Hirst, former MP, 51; Mr Doug McAvoy, trade unionist, 58; Mr Piers Merchant, MP, 46; Sir Bruce Parullo, governor, Bank of Scotland, 59; Sir Charles Reece, former group research and technology director, ICI, 70; Mr Edmund de Rothschild, former chairman, N.M. Rothschild and Sons, 81; the Earl of St Germans, 56; Air Marshal Sir Ernest Sidesy, 94; Sir Keith Thomas, President, British Academy, 64; Sir Michael Tippett, OM, CH, composer, 92; Dame Rachel Waterhouse, former chairman, Consumers' Association, 74; Sir Andrew Wood, diplomat, 57; the Right Rev Kenneth Woolcombe, former Bishop of Oxford, 73.

### Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** Thomas Yalden, poet, Oxford, 1669; James Wolfe, general and conqueror of Quebec, Westerham, Kent, 1727; Gilbert Murray, scholar, Sydney, New South Wales, 1866; Count Folke Bernadotte, UN mediator, Stockholm, 1895; Isaac Asimov, science fiction writer, Petrovitch in the Smolensk district of Russia (1920).

**DEATHS:** Ovid, poet, Tomi, on the Black Sea, AD17; Johann Kaspar Lavater, physiognomist and poet, Zurich, 1801; Sir George Biddell Airy, Astronomer Royal 1836-81; Alnwick, Northumberland, 1892; Friedrich Wilhelm IV, King of Prussia, 1861; Leon Philippe Teisserenc de Bort, meteorologist, Cannes, 1913; Sir Edward Tyler, anthropologist, Wellington, Somerset, 1917; Eleanor Rathbone, social reformer, London, 1946; Edna May, actress, 1948; Princess Alice Countess of Athlone, 1981.

Sir Joshua Reynolds became the first president of the Royal Academy, which opened this day, 1769.

The Soviets launched *Luna 1*, the first unmanned space rocket to pass close to the Moon, 1959.

Sixty six people were killed when a barrier collapsed at Ibrox Park football ground, Glasgow, 1971.

### Alan Beresford Cook

A memorial service for Alan Beresford Cook, Surveyor of St Paul's School 1952-64, will be held in the Chapel at St Paul's School, Lonsdale Road, Barnes, at 6.30pm on Thursday, January 16, 1997. Former pupils and colleagues are welcome.

## Forthcoming marriages

Captain the Hon A.P. Perry and Miss S.E. Wartnaby

The engagement is announced between Captain Adrian Perry, The Light Dragoons, son of an Earl and Countess of Lincoln, of West Heath, Sussex, and Suzanne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Wartnaby, of Leek Wootton, Warwickshire.

Mr R.G. Ring and Miss C.K. Brand

The engagement is announced between Gordon, second son of Mr and Mrs Brian Ring, of Bloomsbury, and Charlotte, elder daughter of Mr Michael and the Hon Mrs Brand, of Little Venice, London.

Mr S.W.N. Fraser and Miss H.K. Macpherson

The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Major and Mrs Peter Fraser, of Baughurst, Hampshire, and Hannah, daughter of Mr Colin Macpherson, of Ashbury, Oxfordshire, and Mrs Mary Macpherson, of South Cerney, Gloucestershire.

Mr C.H. Lydiard-Wilson and Miss T.E. Lumley-Frank

The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs J.H. Lydiard-Wilson, of Hollowell, Northamptonshire, and Tessa, elder daughter of Mr Anthony Lumley-Frank and Mrs Caroline Lumley-Frank, of London.

Mr E.A. Martin and Miss D.G.M. Jarrold

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of the late Mr Dennis Martin and of Mrs Cherry Martin, of Stapleford, Taunton, and Michelle, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs William Jarrold, of Cingleford, Norwich.

Mr C.P. Moore and Miss C.P. Dolan

The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Professor and Mrs Peter G. Moore, of Sevenoaks, Kent, and Christine, daughter of Mr and Mrs William R. Dolan, of New Canaan, Connecticut.

Mr R.W. Palmer and Miss N.J.A. Kopanski

The engagement is announced between Robert, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Palmer, of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, and Nicola, youngest daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Tadek Kopanski, of Aldington, Warwickshire.

Mr D.H. Spridell and Miss S.J. Ley-Wilson

The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Spridell, of Moor Park, Middlesex, and Sashi, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Ley-Wilson, of East Grinstead, West Sussex.

### Latest wills

Maria Belak of Radlett, Hertfordshire, left £922,930 net.

Isabel Alderson, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, left £916,377 net.

He left £3,000 to the RNLI.

William Stainer, of Lyme Green, Macclesfield, Cheshire, left £635,143.

He left his residuary estate between his wife, Mrs Muriel, of Macclesfield, and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, NSPCC. Aged 101.

Barbara's Association for Research into Crippling Diseases, YMCA, Langley Methodist Church, Methodist Homes for the Aged and the Church Hospital.

Edith Eileen Pastan, of Copse Meadow, Woodley, Reading, Berkshire, left £1,110,484 net.

Roy Charles Parish, of Solihull, West Midlands, left £625,539 net.

John Thorne Scott, of Upton Warren, nr Bromsgrove, Hereford, and Worcester, left £591,694 net.

Eugenie Beatrice Kropacy, of Lymington, Hampshire, left £828,703 net.



Bob Palmer with some of his water buffalo; demand for their milk and cheese has outstripped supply

## Buffalo roam on English fields

WATER buffalo descended from animals that once roamed the plains of India are grazing English fields in a bold dairy farming venture that has already created one prize-winning cheese (Michael Hornsby writes).

Bob Palmer and his wife Nicola began importing the cattle from Romania and Italy five years ago after buying a 14-acre farm at Iddicote in Warwickshire. They started with 12 animals and now have a herd of 130.

Although the Palmers have sold some of their stock to other farms, theirs is still the only commercial water buffalo herd in Britain, with an annual milk output of

over 200,000 litres. The couple previously kept Jersey cows on a smallholding but were hampered by the cost of having to lease milk quota.

"The great attraction of buffalo is that they are not covered by the European Union's quota system," Mr Palmer said. "The only limits on how much milk you can produce are the capacity of your cows and the number of customers

willing to buy it. At the moment we cannot meet demand." Mr Palmer began by processing his own milk to produce mozzarella cheese, the main reason why buffalo are so prized in Italy. He has now contracted out cheese-making to two dairies.

One of them makes yoghurt and mozzarella. The other has produced a hard cheese that won a gold medal as the best new product of 1996 in the British Cheese Awards. "We are also exploring the market for buffalo meat," Mr Palmer said. "It is low in cholesterol and saturated fats and no buffalo in the world has ever been affected by BSE."

## School boxing fights back from ropes

BY DAVID CHARTER  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A NEW year campaign to revive boxing in schools is seeking to recruit boys and girls aged eight to 13. It aims to rescue the sport from terminal decline.

The Kids Gloves Scheme

will market boxing as a fun activity but the Schools Amateur Boxing Association's four-year plan also aims to encourage pupils to take up the sport competitively.

Sponsors are being sought to send schools a playground game which teaches basic boxing skills. It involves one child defending a small circle against another trying to

touch his shirt or cap. Boxing has virtually disappeared from schools in recent years.

In the 1950s more than 50,000 took part in national schoolboy boxing championships compared with 1,500 in the 1990s.

However, the campaign will face determined opposition from the British Medical Association, which wants a total ban on boxing. A spokeswoman for the BMA said: "You

would have to expect that this would be encouraging people

to take up boxing as a contact sport. We would be very worried about that. This seems to be flying in the face of most people realising that boxing does cause brain damage."

However, the boxing au-

thorities believe a mini-ver-

sion of boxing could become

as successful as other children's versions of popular sports such as Mini-Rugby, Kwik-cricket and Short-

tennis.

They have devised Tickle-

box, a game for eight to 12-

year-olds, where one child

stands in a small circle wear-

ing a cap, with a larger circle

marking a no-go area around

him or her.

The aim of the game is to

"touch the defender on the

traditional target areas, that

is, the front of the T-shirt or on

the Ticklebox cap," according

to the instructions. Points are

awarded to the defender for

every punch and the attacker

for successful touches.

## Replica Endeavour sets sail for berth in Cook exhibition

BY JOHN SHAW

A REPLICA of Captain James Cook's ship the *Endeavour* is preparing for the final leg of an historic voyage from Australia to Britain.

The 397-tonne vessel is due to reach London on March 28 after a 115-day voyage from Fremantle, Western Australia. The vessel is at present in South Africa where the crew spent Christmas. She leaves Cape Town on January 13.

The *Endeavour* will be the centrepiece of an exhibition at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, when she reaches Britain. It will be devoted to Cook's first great voyage of exploration and discovery in the Pacific which began in August 1768 and lasted three years.

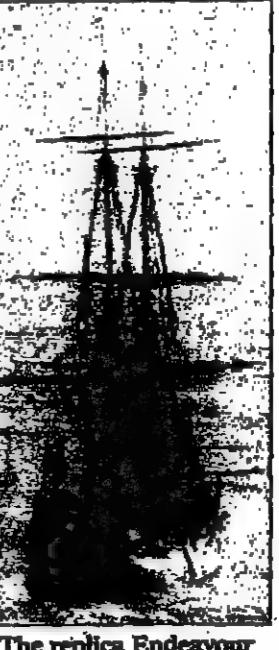
His craft was a three-masted collier built at Whitby, North Yorkshire, in 1768. Solidly constructed, flat-bottomed and with ample storage in the hull, she was slow but sturdy and the ideal vessel for his expedition.

One of them makes yoghurt and mozzarella. The other has produced a hard cheese that won a gold medal as the best new product of 1996 in the British Cheese Awards. "We are also exploring the market for buffalo meat," Mr Palmer said. "It is low in cholesterol and saturated fats and no buffalo in the world has ever been affected by BSE."

Instead of the traditional elm, oak or spruce, the hull is built mainly of jarrah, a native Australian hardwood. But the vessel was built to the same specification as the original, using plans held at the museum. The *Endeavour* will be open to the public from March 28 to April 13 before beginning a tour of 14 British ports and sailing on to France, Canada and the United States.

Six young British sailors are on the ship. Anna Rothwell, 18, of Ilfracombe, Devon, Jeremy Channon, 21, of Poole, Dorset, and Alison O'Neill, 27, of Shrewsbury, sailed from Australia to South Africa.

Karl Johnson, 18, from Whitchurch, Cumbria, 23, from Edinburgh and Andrew Webb, 28, of Harwich, Essex are on the Capetown to London leg. They are among sailors from several nations taking berths to support the 56 professional crewmen handling the ship. People with sailing experience can accompany individual legs of the voyage round Britain by sailing direct to the museum.



The replica Endeavour built to original plans

## Icy weather and know-all neighbours froze out Neanderthals

of scholarly dispute. What is undisputed is that, having survived successfully until less than 40,000 years ago, the Neanderthals died out within a few millennia. "Why did a whole population across an entire continent disappear?" asks Dr Paul Mellars, suggesting that a complex rela-

tionship with new arrivals was the cause.

Just prior to the Neanderthal *Homo sapiens*, our own subspecies, first appeared in Europe and rapidly colonised the entire continent as far west as Spain. Entering from the Near East around 43,000 years ago, the movement was complete by 39,000 years ago.

Neanderthals survived the influx, however, and their stone tools at this period show the influence of technological innovations brought by the newcomers. The "Aurignacian" tool kit of modern humans was based on long flint blades which were then worked into many different cutting, scraping and piercing implements, and which were also used to make a wide range of bone, antler and wood tools and hunting weapons.

A drastic climatic change around 35,000 years ago, with temperatures dropping up to 8C over less than 100 years, reduced the Neanderthals' resources and thrust them into direct competition with modern humans.

Neanderthal society may have become fragmented, Dr Mellars believes. This in turn would make co-operation of groups in pursuit of a

common good, such as large herds of animals, easier.

There does not seem to have been any interbreeding with modern humans: the notion that our ancestors out-competed the Neanderthal males for women as well as food must be discarded. Instead, Dr Mellars believes that the Neanderthals were hit by a "triple whammy" of deteriorating climate and resources, an expanding and culturally more efficient immigrant population of modern humans, and the fragmentation of their own society under the strain.

"There was a vast change in a very short time," he said, "and modern humans had the abilities to make culture triumph over nature." Their tool kit was more flexible and efficient as were their social interactions, and they may even have been better physically adapted to the cold.



Neanderthal man: unable to adapt to changing times

can sites documents the rapid expansion of modern humans. Dr Mellars said, but in south-west France it is clear that Neanderthal groups continued to exist side by side with them for up to 6,000 years. This could have been due to low population densities, so that there was no immediate competition for resources, or to the targeting of different food sources: modern humans exploited reindeer herds heavily, while Neanderthals hunted a wide range of animals.

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The sudden appearance of

cave art in western Europe at

sites with Aurignacian tools,

such as the Chauvet cave in

## OBITUARIES

## GENERAL SIR IAN RICHES

General Sir Ian Riches, KCB, DSO, Commandant General Royal Marines, 1959-62, died on December 23 aged 88. He was born on September 27, 1908.

Ian Riches was awarded his DSO for his contribution to attacks against the left flank of Marshal Kesselring's defences south of the Po Valley during the final phase of the Second World War in Italy.

In the winter of 1944-45 Riches's commando, 43 Commando, Royal Marines, had just come from harassing the 30,000 men of the German XXI Mountain Corps among the freezing highlands of Yugoslavia. When a British pre-ence ceased to be welcome to the Communist partisans, 43 Commando was ejected and subsequently redeployed to the wet and bleak marshes around Lake Comacchio near the Italian coast just north of Ravenna. With other commando units, Riches and his men fought a bitter and difficult battle throughout April 2 and 3, 1945, with little natural cover to help their advances across minefields towards well-prepared German positions.

In this action, for his desperate courage in single-handedly storming German machine-gun positions, the Royal Marines' tenth Victoria Cross was posthumously awarded to Colonel Thomas Hunter of 43 Commando, the only Marine VC of the Second World War. The objective of drawing Kesselring's reserves away from a thrust elsewhere was achieved.

Ian Harry Riches was commissioned into the Royal Marines in 1927. After training, he joined the battleship Queen Elizabeth, flagship of the Mediterranean Fleet, where smart guards of honour and crisp ceremonial characterised the daily routine.

In 1935, having specialised in signals, he was signals officer of the mobile naval base deployed to Alexandria during the Abyssinian crisis. At this time he also qualified



as an interpreter in French and Spanish.

By the outbreak of the war, Riches had been promoted to captain and had been selected for the junior war staff course at Camberley staff college. On completion, he was appointed brigade major of the newly formed 101 Royal Marine Brigade which in September 1940 was involved in the abortive attempt to gain a West African foothold for de Gaulle at Dakar.

Having graduated from the senior staff course at Camberley, Riches served from 1942 in a series of

headquarters' appointments with the Royal Marine Division and at the Admiralty until late 1944, when he was dispatched to take command of 43 Commando in the Balkans.

After the war he commanded the Signal School and then 42 Commando based at Malta. On April 28, 1948, four hours after the order to move, his commando was on its way to Haifa in Palestine to assist in the evacuation of troops during the closing stages of the British Mandate.

After a short spell in Malta Riches and 42 Commando were sent to Hong Kong in the local defence and internal security role. Relieved in 1950, he was employed in increas-

Terrorism by the Irgun group, including attacks on British troops and police, was now adding to the well-judged political pressure on Britain exercised worldwide but particularly in America — leading to the acceleration of a messy and dangerous withdrawal process. 42 Commando ended up as part of the Middle East strategic reserve in the Canal Zone.

After a short spell in Malta Riches and 42 Commando were sent to Hong Kong in the local defence and internal security role. Relieved in 1950, he was employed in increas-

ingly significant operational and staff posts, including command of 3 Commando Brigade in the Canal Zone and Malta, until promoted major-general in charge of Portsmouth Group Royal Marines in 1957.

In February 1959 he was promoted lieutenant-general and appointed Commandant General Royal Marines. At the Suez invasion of 1956, helicopter-borne assaults over the beach had been used for the first time, and with great success. This operational concept was further developed during Riches's time as Commandant General. The light fleet carriers *Bulwark* and *Albion* were converted and dedicated to the Commando role and much of the argument revolved around how to maintain a Commando's physical fitness and military efficiency when embarked and deployed abroad.

Riches was adamant that there should be provision for permanent shore-based accommodation and training areas and that two Commandos should be available to be rotated through the operational and training cycle. His representations bore fruit when 40 Commando and the Brigade HQ were moved to Singapore to be available to be embarked in whichever aircraft carrier was deployed East of Suez. In July 1961, when Iraq (setting the pattern for the future) made its first move against Kuwait, the threat of aggression saw the *Bulwark* with 42 Commando and 16 Whirlwind helicopters spearheading the British deterrent forces in exactly the manner envisaged by Riches and his staff.

Ian Riches was noted for his courtesy, generosity and kindness. Appointed KCB in 1960, he was promoted general in 1961 and retired in 1962. In retirement, Riches was a regional director of civil defence and representative colonel commandant of the Royal Marines until 1968.

He is survived by his wife Winifred, daughter of Admiral Sir Geoffrey Layton, and by their sons.

## JACK PERRY

Jack Perry, pioneer of British-Chinese trade, died on December 12 aged 81. He was born on March 31, 1915.

JACK PERRY belonged to that generation of East End Jews whose entrepreneurial drive has contributed much to Britain's economy. He was born and brought up in the East End of London at a time of struggle and political strife. He was in Cable Street when Oswald Mosley's blackshirts were faced down by the local community, and his politics always reflected the left-wing

influences of his youth. He was a chronic asthmatic from childhood, and his ill-health denied him both a regular education and wartime service. Like many East Enders, he entered the rag trade, and that would have probably remained his life calling but for an interest in East-West trade which led him to attend the Moscow Economic Conference in 1952.

There he established especially good links with the Chinese delegation. For the next 40 years he devoted his life to improving trade and political and cultural links with China. He helped to found the 48 Group for companies trading with China and he launched his own company, London Export, to promote that same endeavour.

He made more than seventy visits to China and was instrumental in helping the Chinese Government to build new relationships with organisations across Western Europe. When the first trade offices of the Chinese authorities opened in Berlin, Perry made weekly visits there to exchange views and report developments to the Chinese commercial staff and to assist their efforts to create links with Western European companies.

In 1954 the conference to end the war in Indo-China and bring peace and independence to a united Vietnam was held in Geneva, to which Premier Chou En-lai led the Chinese delegation. In the conference's early stages, Perry was requested by the Chinese delegation to be present in order to assist in the negotiations then taking place for opening up trade relations between Britain and China.

At the end of the conference, diplomatic relations between Britain and China were resumed. Legations were opened in both capitals and the first Chinese trade mission from the People's Republic arrived in Britain in 1954. Perry was involved in assisting the delegation during its visit.

In 1955 he made a visit to China together with the representatives of 15 companies who together formed an informal British delegation. They signed a trade arrangement worth £50 million, which encouraged other Western delegations to follow suit. It was this visit which led to the formation in 1954 of the 48 Group of British Traders with China. Perry became its vice-chairman.

In 1956 Perry was honoured by the University of International Business and Economics in Peking, becoming a visiting professor there and subsequently spending long periods lecturing Chinese students.

He was also a fine bridge player, frequently playing with the British International Ralph Swann, with whom he maintained friendly relations through shared tailoring connections from their youth. On a number of occasions he took bridge teams to China for exhibition matches.

Jack Perry was married to Doris Shaer, generally known as Kate, for 38 years. She died in 1985. He is survived by three sons and two daughters.

The Times  
Best Sermons of 1996  
Edited and introduced by Ruth Gledhill

WHAT is a good sermon? Who are the best preachers? How well do they deliver their sermons? You will find the answers to these questions in *The Times Best Sermons of 1996*, edited and introduced by Ruth Gledhill, The Times' religious affairs correspondent. You can buy this lively and challenging book for the special price of £7.99, £2.00 less than the normal price.

Gledhill visits hundreds of churches of all denominations every year and she is constantly struck by the variety and standard of preaching she encounters.

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Thirty of the best sermons have been chosen from entries to the 1996 competition and published in this book. Some are challenging, others are enlightening or comforting; there are sermons that tackle the great moral dilemmas of the day and sermons which make the heart want to sing.

You can also read the text of the first winning sermon delivered by Preacher of the Year, the Rev Barry Overend of Leeds.

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## LORD GREY OF CODNOR

Charles Cornwall-Legh, CBE, 5th Baron Grey of Codnor, died on December 23 aged 93. He was born on February 10, 1903.

The circumstances attending the arrival seven years ago of Lord Grey of Codnor in the House of Lords must have left even those in the Labour Party who wish to undermine the hereditary element feeling that the half had not been told to them. For it was achieved by means that would have to be considered quaint and eccentric even by the occasionally haphazard ways of the Upper House. In 1953 Charles Cornwall-Legh took his place on the red benches as the successor to the 4th Baron, a nephew of one of his ancestors, who had died in 1946, at which time the barony had drifted into abeyance.

Charles Legh Shuldrum Cornwall-Legh was the son of Charles Cornwall-Legh, who died in 1934. His father was 6th in descent from the 16th and last Baron of Burford (so styled, though he never received a summons to Parliament). The 16th Baron being himself 10th in descent from Richard, King of the Romans, Earl of Cornwall and Provence, and Count of Poitou. His mother was Geraldine Shuldrum, the daughter of an Army officer.

In his early days he was educated at King's School, Bruton, and Hertford College, Oxford. He served as a flight lieutenant in the Auxiliary Air Force and the RAF and was a recipient of the Air Efficiency Award. Otherwise he equipped himself with county affairs in Knuisdon, Cheshire, where he was a landowner and farmer.

On paper this looked impressive: he was High Sheriff of Cheshire in 1939, and served as a JP from 1938 to 1974. He was a Deputy Lieutenant from 1949, a county councillor, 1949-77. He was chairman of the new Cheshire County Council, 1974-76, and of the Cheshire Police Authority, 1957-74. He was appointed OBE in 1971 and advanced to CBE in 1977.



Cornwall-Legh one of the co-heirs.

Following his father's death, Charles Cornwall-Legh presented further petitions and undertaken the costly genealogical research into the lines of the other co-heirs, until he eventually proved his right in 1959.

The Greys were an ancient family, their first proven ancestor being Henry de Grey, seated at the Manor of Thurstrock in 1190. The Greys of Codnor descended from his second son Richard, whose grandson, Henry de Grey of Codnor, was summoned to Parliament in 1299. Six generations later the barony fell into abeyance, and being inheritable through the female line, was vested in his three aunts: Elizabeth, Lady Zouche; Eleanor Newport and Lucy Lady Lenhall. It was from Lucy (who left two daughters) that the 5th Lord Grey of Codnor descended.

He married in 1930 Dorothy Whiston Scott (who died in 1993) and they had one son, Richard, a county man like his father and a former member of the British ski team, who succeeds to the barony, and two daughters.

## MURIEL MONKHOUSE

Muriel Monkhouse, OBE, Red Cross worker and ballerina, died on December 4 aged 86. She was born on February 22, 1910.

IN HER own quiet way, Muriel Monkhouse led a double life in the worlds of ballet and humanitarian service. By day she was an invaluable officer of the British Red Cross Society; the evenings might well find her cooking supper for the likes of Margot Fonteyn or Rudolf Nureyev. She went under two names; too-hating her first baptismal name of Leonora, she used only her second one, Muriel, for official purposes, but preferred the nickname Tiny, by which she was always known in the dance world.

Ballerina came first into her life. She had neither the physique nor the co-ordination to become a professional dancer, but her love of the art was such that she faithfully took class for many years. Born in Hampstead, she was ten when her father's work as an actuary took the family to Cape Town, and it was in Helen Webb's ballet studio there during the mid-1930s that she met the dancer Maude Lloyd.

When the Blitz, with no time for her to get home to Hampstead in the evening before the bombing began, the Goslings, living in Kensington, invited her to move in with them, and she remained there ever after, becoming "like family". In 1949 she took over running the Red Cross Tracing Department, where her sensitivity, patience and skill in inquiries reunited many thousands of families separated by war.

Besides an immense correspondence, she visited the Red Cross societies in Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Germany, France and The Netherlands; later conflicts and disasters extended her work to Biafra, Pakistan, Cyprus and the Lebanon.

Throughout the war she worked in the French department, later dealing with Hungarian, Yugoslav and Austrian families too. During the Blitz, with no time for her to get home to Hampstead in the evening before the bombing began, the Goslings, living in Kensington, invited her to move in with them, and she remained there ever after, becoming "like family". In 1949 she took over running the Red Cross Tracing Department, where her sensitivity, patience and skill in inquiries reunited many thousands of families separated by war.

Her devotion to her work was recognised in 1977 by her appointment as OBE; characteristically, she insisted on regarding this as a tribute to the department rather than to her personally. However, she could not similarly shrug off two further distinctions. In 1979, when she officially retired (although she continued to work voluntarily for two days a week), she was given the Society's Badge of Honour for Distinguished Service and honorary life membership. Even more notably, in 1994 an annual Muriel Monkhouse Award was instituted, awarded to mark the exceptional personal and professional qualities of a volunteer in the welfare service of any UK Red Cross branch.

In spite of her heavy professional load, Muriel Monkhouse remained intimately involved with ballet and art: attending performances and helping to entertain the guests who visited or stayed at the Goslings' home, where painters, writers, directors, choreographers and dancers from England and abroad were constantly coming and going, and where Rudolf Nureyev had his London quarters in the basement. Her reticent manner would have made her almost unnoticeable had she not spent so much care on ensuring both the comfort and the feeding of all who came.

She did not marry, but she never lacked for a true family life.

TRAPPED AND STARVED  
TALE OF RUSSIAN DISASTER

How at least 15,000 Russian troops were trapped near Lake Kianta, held there for 10 days, and then practically annihilated as a fighting force by Finnish forces inferior in number and equipment, is described by a special correspondent of British United Press at Rovaniemi.

The terrain near the westernmost of the two northern arms of Lake Kianta forms a natural trap into which two Russian regiments blundered early in December. In normal weather they might have fought their way free, but the Finns, helped by the intense cold and snow, managed to encircle them and cut off their supplies.

Day after day the Finns made no move to do anything but hold them there. Day by day the bitter cold from which there was no shelter and the dwindling food supplies brought the Russians' resistance lower and lower. The cold froze their finger tips until they could scarcely pull a trigger.

After 10 days the Finns attacked. For three all was over, and thousands of Russians lay dead. Of those alive, many were hardly strong enough to die.

Jack Perry was married to Doris Shaer, generally known as Kate, for 38 years. She died in 1985. He is survived by three sons and two daughters.

## ON THIS DAY

January 2, 1940

## NEWS

## Market shooting fails to halt talks

■ Talks on the future of Hebron reopened last night despite an attack by an Israeli soldier in which he wounded six Arabs in an attempted New Year's Day massacre. He had wanted to stop the town's transfer to Palestinian self rule.

The shooting in Hebron's open air Arab market came as Israeli troops were preparing to withdraw from four fifths of the town..... Pages 1, 13

## Jobs for the Labour girls

■ The changing face of new Labour has been highlighted by a comprehensive analysis predicting that one in four Labour MPs after the next election will be women. If Tony Blair wins office he will be supported by a Parliamentary Labour Party that is also dominated by MPs who are former councillors, journalists and party officials..... Pages 1, 2

## Cold payments

One million more cold weather payments to elderly and needy people will be triggered by the end of the week, the Government announced..... Page 1

## Parents' footsteps

Oxbridge colleges are coming under increasing pressure to admit the children of former students, some of whom expect a university place for their offspring in return for much-needed donations..... Page 2

## Party axe attack

A teenager was struck on the head with an axe by gatecrashers who forced their way into a New Year's Eve party at a friend's house on a naval housing estate in Cosham, Hampshire..... Page 3

## Wedding day bomb

A newly married couple refused to allow the IRA to ruin their wedding reception when terrorists abandoned a bomb in the grounds of Belfast Castle on New Year's Eve..... Page 3

## Missing girl clue

The parents of a teenager who left home a year ago are convinced that a videotape proves that their daughter is alive..... Page 4

## Seaside thrills

Competition to create the ultimate rollercoaster intensified with a £15 million plan to build Europe's longest ride at the Lincolnshire seaside..... Page 5

## Woman lived 45 years with broken neck

■ A woman who discovered she had been living with a broken neck for 45 years has been told by doctors that a sudden jolt could have killed her at any time. Joy Connor, 56, will have an operation to mend the break which happened when she fell from a barn at 11. Doctors were amazed when an x-ray revealed damage to the peg on which the skull sits..... Page 1



Swans were left high and dry yesterday when the Thames froze over at Pangbourne, Berkshire, for the first time in many years. Page 1

## BUSINESS

Lost windfalls: Some savers with the Halifax banking society could lose out on share bonuses worth £1,000 when the society becomes a bank because of administrative errors..... Page 40

Tougher times: The next government is likely to be forced to raise tax and interest rates, says an economic think-tank..... Page 40

Hard work: Fraudsters come in all shapes and sizes but they have one thing in common — a phobia about taking holidays in case their misdeeds come to light..... Page 37

Rich pay-backs: In our continuing look at the new breed of self-made millionaires, Frank le Duc meets the growing band of businessmen who risked their homes in management buy-outs..... Page 38

## SPORT

Cricket: England suffered a humiliating defeat on a faster scoring rate in the second one-day international against Zimbabwe..... Page 21

Football: Liverpool, the FA Cup-tournament leaders, lost ground when they were beaten 1-0 by Chelsea at Stamford Bridge..... Page 22

Tennis: Tim Henman opened a critical year by securing a place in the quarter-finals of the Qatar Open in Dubai. He beat Tamer El Sawy, of Egypt, 6-3 6-2..... Page 25

Weather: The undulant heating at Cardiff Arms Park was unable to cope, leading to the late cancellation of the tour match between the United States and Emerging Wales. The all-weather race meeting at Southwell was the only one to survive..... Page 25

Movie magic: Geoff Brown reviews the week's cinema releases and gives the prize to the Australian film, *Shine*..... Page 29

Rock on: For armchair film fans the best video release of the week is *The Rock*, an all-action show in which Sean Connery and Nicolas Cage try to save a besieged Alcatraz..... Page 30

Civilised pleasure: On Day Four of *If These Walls Could Speak*, Michael Henderson picks the Frick art collection in New York..... Page 31

Boyzone will be boys: To end their year, Boyzone filled Dublin's showground with screaming girls and treated them to a slavishly rehearsed sequence of dance routines in which the music was largely incidental..... Page 31

Winter warning: Dr Thomas Stanford on the dangers of diving into icy waters; the symptoms of colds and flu; risks of living with birds and why elderly women may faint under the dryer..... Page 14

Grand-uncle Dracula: In the centenary year of *Dracula's* publication, Daniel Farson reflects on the strange relationship between Bram Stoker and the actor-manager Sir Henry Irving..... Page 15

Not stuff: How Kathryn Knight set the world on fire for the night she went on a blind date..... Page 15

## COLUMNS

## WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The last three years of John Major's premiership have seen a period of economic recovery, better control of expenditure and a Cabinet shift on Europe. If one judges him as Prime Minister on his performance after January 1 1994, his record undeniably looks much better..... Page 16

## MAGNUS LINKLATER

As one of the exhausted judges who took part in a three-month reading marathon to choose the Whitbread Biography of the Year, I can testify to one thing: there is no such thing as a short biography..... Page 16

## PAUL BEW

Why should David Trimble's nine Ulster Unionist MPs not make common cause with Labour in the lobbies? It is not likely to happen. There are still, despite everything, warm ties between Tories and Ulster Unionists..... Page 16

## General: Sir Ian Rches; Royal Marines; Lord Grey of Codnor; Jack Perry, trade pioneer; Muriel Monhouse, ballet teacher Page 19

Right to silence; moral excellence in Catholic schools; slang; Prince's trucks; faith in Britain; millennium; *The Times* and Iran..... Page 17

## IN THE TIMES

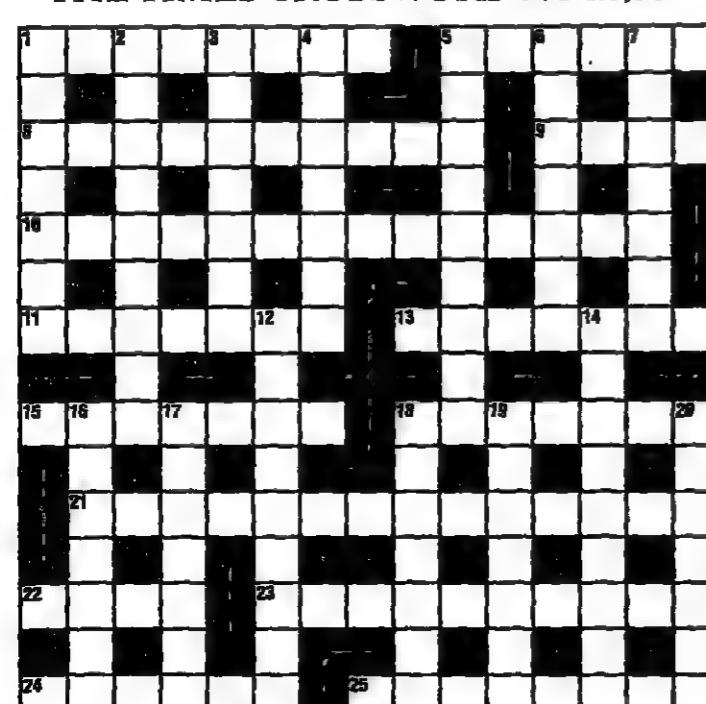
■ FEATURES Robert Lindsay on his latest project, *Goodbye My Love*, a drama-documentary about euthanasia.....

■ POP Times writers predict the top faces and sounds for 1997

Home sweet home: The number of holidays Britons take at home is expected to increase with a growth in "soft adventure"..... Page 28

North Korea's actions suggest that the regime may indeed be nervously seeking to enter the community of civilised nations. The agreement to meet jointly with Washington and Seoul seems to support the Administration's hopes that careful diplomacy could encourage peace..... *The New York Times*

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,366



## ACROSS

1 Butcher animal and bird in America (8).  
5 Prior to remain, with warning (6).  
8 Dead linguist? (10).  
9 Piece of verse William Brown has by heart (4).  
10 Vehicle for a wide range of views (11-13).  
11 Provide skeleton at university, and make improper charge (5-2).  
13 Sore patch of skin a hindrance for ornamental head-dress (7).  
15 Get black mark after taking a dip here? (7).  
18 Sicilian, say, executed for defamation (7).  
21 Change of life-style for All Souls, say? (14).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,365

**FIRSTFOOT GIBBS**  
QUE PO UANI  
CELESTE PHANTOM  
IET RHI  
SCOOP ANECDOTAL  
UASL USA  
POT PRIMENUMBER  
A EN C N L  
SUFFRAGETTE BAY  
TIE E O NO  
THUNDERER GALOP  
ETA S A S E  
NOTHING HIGHHAT  
SEL E I E I I  
EARLY EXPEDIENT

## AA INFORMATION

Local Road and Weather conditions  
UK Weather - All regions 0336 444 910  
UK Roads - All regions 0336 401 410  
Inside PGS 0336 401 746  
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# THE TIMES



INSIDE SECTION

2  
TODAY

## FOOTBALL

Chelsea play their trump card against Liverpool  
PAGES 22-23



## ROWING

Gifted all-rounder seeking honours at Cambridge  
PAGE 24



## BUSINESS

Transport chief with the Midas touch  
PAGES 37, 38, 40



TELEVISION  
AND  
RADIO  
PAGES  
38, 39

THURSDAY JANUARY 2 1997

**'We were just not up to it,' Lloyd laments after Zimbabwe secure victory in series**

## One-day shambles shames England

FROM SIMON WILDE IN HARARE

**HARARE** (England won toss): Zimbabwe beat England by five runs on revised target

A NEW year, but the same old cock-up. England were on top in this match for seven of its eight hours but, as so often is the case, when the hour that really mattered came around they were found hopelessly wanting. In fact, their performance in the final hour, during which they needed just 74 runs from the last 14 overs, with seven wickets standing, to win this second one-day international was spineless, even by comparison with some of their other recent disasters.

What made this capitulation all the more painful was the fact that this was England's chance to show that they are indeed superior to Zimbabwe, over whom they claimed a moral victory in the recent drawn Test series. It was their chance to "murder" them. But there was only one team murdered yesterday and it was not Zimbabwe but England, and they were done to death by their own hand.

It was embarrassing to watch and is embarrassing to contemplate. Some of the mistakes England made as they pursued a revised target of 185 in 42 overs was so basic that it

John Woodcock 25  
Australia bowled 25

beggars belief that these are players who are supposed to know the limited overs game inside out. Their team selection was wrong, their shot selection was wrong, their playing mathematics were wrong.

No less hurtful are the facts surrounding the result. It means that England are the first team to lose a limited overs series to Zimbabwe (who are now 2-0 up in the three-match series); that they have lost four times in five one-day matches to the "weaker" Test nation in the world; and that they have lost the last 11 one-day internationals they have played against Test nations away from home.

Needless to say, the late change in fortunes met with the raucous delight of a capacity holiday crowd at the Harare Sports Club who had been subdued for most of the afternoon as first Stewart, with 41 from 37 balls, and then Crawley, with 73 from 109, put England in the driving seat. But the crowd's enthusiasm ensured that Zimbabwe never quite gave up. As David Lloyd, the England coach, conceded: "Their players were committed and up for the game ... more up for it than ours. The game was there for the taking but we were just not up to it."

England paid a heavy price for leaving out a sixth bats-

man to accommodate a second all-rounder. As was always going to be the case, this left them with a surfeit of bowlers and, as it happened, Gough, who took four for 43, Mullally and Croft bowled well enough that Zimbabwe were dismissed inside their 50 overs for 200, although this could have been a lot less. At one point Zimbabwe were 38 for four, the casualties including Campbell and Houghton.

It was then that Zimbabwe first showed their combative nature. Andy Flower scored 63 from 114 balls and streak a streaky 43 not out. Atherton, the England captain, later paid tribute to the resourcefulness of these "bits and pieces cricketers".

If only England had players

worthy of being damned with such faint praise. Without Thorpe in the side, Irani came in at No 6 and White at No 7 and at a delicate stage of the game they were unable to work the ball around in the way Thorpe might have done. Nor were England helped by the rash approach taken by Knight, who started the Innings by trying to hit everything and threw himself off his feet to the ball from Bradman that had him caught in the covers.

Stewart and Crawley batted beautifully, timing the ball well and finding the gaps between Zimbabwe's razor-sharp fielders. This pair put on 66 in 10.1 overs for the second wicket and although Whittall removed Stewart and Hussain, Crawley and Atherton kept the score moving steadily.

Atherton himself identified

as one of the turning points of the match his own dismissal, which left England 137 for four and needing 48 runs from the last eight overs. He pulled a ball from Strang, who was in the early stages of an outstanding spell of bowling, to deep mid on.

It was brave captaincy to bowl a leg spinner at this crucial stage of the game but Strang did not let Campbell down. He proved so hard to get away that when England were looking to score at six runs an over his last three overs cost two, three and four runs respectively. In frustration first Crawley and then Irani were fatally drawn into going down the pitch to him and being stumped.

The consequence was,

though, that while England's

innings was reduced by eight

overs their target dropped by

only 15 runs and the impression

it gave many onlookers

was that they were being hard

done by. Indeed, on average

they actually scored their runs

faster than Zimbabwe so, al-

though this was in some ways

a familiar tale of failure, at

least they have begun the year

by finding a new way of

guaranteeing victory.

By the time Irani was out

the situation had already be-

come desperate for England.

From the last two overs 19

were still needed and White

was England's only real hope

of getting them, but he was

promptly adjudged leg before

to Strang, though the ball

looked to be going down the

leg side. The task of scoring 16

from the last over, from

Rennie, proved comfortably

within reach, even though

Strang and Gough were

still in the field.

The time for shock would

be when, or prob-

ably if, England

performed over-

seas with the

consistently high

quality of which

they, and their

loyally long-suf-

fering supporters,

still believe themselves capa-

ble of, and

so far, they have

been an un-

undignified dismay to us all.

It can be misguided

and gratuitously offensive to

criticise a touring team from a far-

off armchair, for even the

foreshortening virtues of the

television cameras cannot

close the distance in miles

and, consequently, under-

standing of conditions. Many

is the time that I have been



England's desperation is evident as Irani is stumped. Atherton had earlier been dismayed to be caught on the boundary, the moment which began the slide towards defeat



## SCOREBOARD FROM HARARE

England won toss	
ZIMBABWE	
G W Flower c Hussain b Gough	4
(16min, 10 balls, 1 four)	
A Campbell c Mullally	0
(4min, 3 balls)	
A D Campbell c Stewart	0
b Gough	14
(57min, 17 balls, 2 fours)	
D L Houghton c Mullally	5
(11min, 9 balls, 1 four)	
J A Flower c Stewart b Mullally	65
(173min, 114 balls, 4 fours)	
N V Knight c Houghton b Strang	0
(10min, 10 balls, 2 fours)	
C Evans c Mullally b Strang	32
(4min, 50 balls, 4 fours)	
G Whittall run out (Hussain)	14
(31min, 26 balls, 1 six)	
P Strang c Atherton b Croft	0
(4min, 12 balls)	
H Houghton not out	45
E A Bradman c Atherton b Gough	0
J A Rennie c Gough	0
(2min, 3 balls)	
Extras (b 11, w 10, nb 3)	24
Total (45.5 overs, 208min)	200
FALL OF WICKETS:	1-2 (G W Flower 0)
2-14 (Campbell 7), 3-26 (Campbell 9)	
4-32 (Atherton 7), 5-42 (Flower 20)	
6-42 (Rennie 7), 7-102 (A Flower 20)	
8-200 (Strak 43), 9-200 (Strak 43)	
Total (7 wickets, 42 overs, 176min)	179

C E W Silverwood and A D Mullally did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1 (Stewart 0),

2-17 (Crawley 33), 3-35 (Atherton 41),

4-17 (Strang 12), 5-25 (Gough 41),

6-30 (Whittall 12), 7-37 (Strang 41),

8-41 (Houghton 12), 9-46 (Strang 41),

10-47 (Strang 12), 11-52 (Strang 41),

12-53 (Strang 12), 13-58 (Strang 41),

14-63 (Strang 12), 15-68 (Strang 41),

16-73 (Strang 12), 17-78 (Strang 41),

18-83 (Strang 12), 19-88 (Strang 41),

20-93 (Strang 12), 21-103 (Strang 41),

22-113 (Strang 12), 23-123 (Strang 41),

24-133 (Strang 12), 25-143 (Strang 41),

26-153 (Strang 12), 27-163 (Strang 41),

28-173 (Strang 12), 29-183 (Strang 41),

30-193 (Strang 12), 31-203 (Strang 41),

32-213 (Strang 12), 33-223 (Strang 41),

34-233 (Strang 12), 35-243 (Strang 41),

36-253 (Strang 12), 37-263 (Strang 41),

38-273 (Strang 12), 39-283 (Strang 41),

40-293 (Strang 12), 41-303 (Strang 41),

42-313 (Strang 12), 43-323 (Strang 41),

44-333 (Strang 12), 45-343 (Strang 41),

46-353 (Strang 12), 47-363 (Strang 41),

48-373 (Strang 12), 49-383 (Strang 41),

50-393 (Strang 12), 51-403 (Strang 41),

52-413 (Strang 12), 53-423 (Strang 41),

54-433 (Strang 12), 55-443 (Strang 41),

56-453 (Strang 12), 57-463 (Strang 41),

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FOOTBALL: RETURN OF ROBSON TO THICK OF ACTION FAILS TO PREVENT ARSENAL SEALING POINTS AT HIGBURY

## Bergkamp rings in the new in classic style

Arsenal ..... 2  
Middlesbrough ..... 0  
By ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

ARSENAL maintained tight order at the top of the FA Carling Premiership, and Middlesbrough at the bottom, after a result that hardly seems to change — whenever, it seems, this fixture is played.

It was 1939, before the Second World War, when Middlesbrough last came to the capital and sorted out Arsenal; yesterday, through Bergkamp's classic first goal and Wright's acceptance of a gift-horse to poach the 200th league goal of his career, history was never going to be disturbed.

There was, however, a small piece of Premiership history, the reappearance of Bryan Robson from management into an emergency sweep role on the field. It was Robson's first game for more than a year and, just ten days before his fortieth birthday, makes him one of the oldest men of the playing fields since the Premiership was formed.

Competitive as ever, a streak of malice in his boots, Robson played in defiance of "royal scissars". And in playing out of position, in getting to the pitch of the battle, his ability to bridge the age gap and to play again after so long out of full training, surely says something about his pedigree — or about millionaire-player standards.

Poor Robson. Why should he subject himself to a game at Highbury where the referee, Mike Reed, was obliged to take six names for blatant kicks at fellow professionals, and in the 89th minute to send off John Hartson, the fourth Arsenal professional to be shown the red card in eight games.

"It's not good, fifty per cent," Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, said. "But I cannot condemn my players when the first three — Sould, Adams and Wright — were undeserved red cards for understandable reactions. But it says in the referee's report that Hartson was sent off for foul and abusive language, and it's



Wright seals the game for Arsenal with the 200th league goal of his career, as he chips the ball over Walsh, the Middlesbrough goalkeeper. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

stupid to seal the referee." Stupid, because it came in the 90th minute and barely half-a-minute after Hartson had been shown the yellow card for reacting to being hustled unfairly by Robson. His anger may have had something to do with the fact that the referee was quick to punish everyone but Robson and Wright whose reputations seemingly dulled his appetite for authority.

Yet, out of attitudes as bitter as the new year wind, came exquisite opportunism. Middlesbrough had withdrawn 15 minutes of Arsenal's attack when their first defensive er-

ror invited Bergkamp to show his balance, his technique, his timing. Keown had driven the ball high into the box, Vickers did not get great distance with his header and Emerson, challenged by Vieira, could only deflect the ball towards Bergkamp.

Then we saw what has been the Dutchman's second season in this country to deliver: on the edge of the area, his body perfectly positioned over the ball, he struck it so cleanly, so precisely on the volley that it entered the net beyond the right hand of Walsh before the goalkeeper really suspected the danger.

One wonders how many foreigners coming to our league will be allowed such a time of faith, such patience before they blossom.

Speaking of foreign imports passing through, Emerson, one of nine players who started the match in gloves was fitful in the extreme. There were touches of his class, back-heels that thrilled; there were examples of his force; and there were long periods when he seemed to be at Highbury in body, but somewhere else, perhaps Barcelona or Rio de Janeiro in mind. His manager Robson would not have it: "I thought

Emerson was one of our better players," he insisted. "I have no worries about the foreign lads at all."

And from a relative newcomer to an habitual poacher. Just before half-time, when Bergkamp crossed high from the left, Beck played out of position as a wing back and attempting to do a defender's duty, misheaded the ball in a loop towards his own goal. Wright looked ecstatic just to get the chance and, at his ease, flicked the ball from six yards past the stranded goalkeeper.

Two goals, it could have been at least double that, and Middlesbrough had only one

forlorn riposte. In the 77th minute, Ravanelli made cap in presumable to quieten his critics of the way Middlesbrough works, won a penalty for himself. There was contact between him and Adams, but the Italian exaggerated it with his belly-flop to the turf. He was quickly up to take the penalty and, with the cries of "cheat cheat" ringing in his ears, Ravanelli lifted his shot against the crossbar.

Robson was left cursing

Middlesbrough's injuries, bemanning his side's penchant for "shouting ourselves in the foot". But he still trusts the foreigners. Arsenal, still think-

ing themselves persecuted by referees, are now without the suspended Wright for the FA Cup tie at home to Sunderland on Saturday and with Garde added to the injuries of Dixon, Seaman and Plant. They had taken Bergkamp off as a precaution because of a tight hamstring, replacing him with Hartson. A mistake as it turned out because of the latter's indiscretion.

ARSENAL (2-0-2): J. Lukic — M. Keown, A. Astor, S. Bould — R. Scurr, R. Giggs (c), S. Mowbray, T. Keown, P. Vickers, P. Merson (sub: D. Shear, 80), N. Warkentin, D. Wright, D. Adams, J. Hartson (sub: C. Adams, 69), D. Bergkamp (sub: G. R. Wright, 69). MIDDLESBROUGH (3-1-1): G. Walsh — N. Cox, B. Robson, S. Stevens — C. Liddle, R. Ravanelli (sub: C. Beardsley, 45), M. Beck — J. Adams (sub: C. Adams, 80) — P. Ravanelli, R. Adams, M. Moore, S. Barnes.

## Newcastle's challenge backed up by striking evidence

Newcastle United ..... 3  
Leeds United ..... 0  
By PETER BALL

WITH Shearer and Ferdinand in this mood, discount Newcastle United at your peril. They shared all three goals yesterday to take their total in the FA Carling Premiership to 25 this season as Newcastle began 1997 in the way that they had ended 1996 — with a home win.

Yet, until the final quarter, the champagne football of the 7-1 victory against Tottenham Hotspur had not carried over into the new year. Instead, Newcastle were in danger of suffering a collective hangover until two goals in the last 11 minutes put daylight between the teams.

"It was always in the melting-pot until the second goal," Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, said. "There was about right at the end of the day, but most of those chances came in the last 15 or 20 minutes."

Indeed, until then the Newcastle performance was best described as workman-like and that might not do justice to Leeds United, who had been suggesting that they could claim an equaliser until the decisive finale.

As Leeds discovered, when you have got Shearer, with Ferdinand as a more than able accomplice, almost anything is possible. "I thought the two of them were absolutely superb, they have got the two best strikers in the game," George Graham, the Leeds manager, said. "Of course Newcastle are still in it the championship race; they have too many class players to be written off."

Leeds had brought back Wetherall in provide extra security against Ferdinand and Shearer's power and Radebe was appointed to man-mark Beardsley. Those plans broke down in five



Ferdinand: deserved goal

minutes, although Radebe could do nothing to prevent Beardsley from hitting over one of his precise corners.

Radebe, however, might wonder how Ferdinand was able to head down and Shearer was unmarked to hook a volley into the corner of the net. "He's the best in the world, and that's why I paid £15 million for him," Keegan said. "That first goal was typical, it's not a fluke, he does it all the time in training."

The goal should have set Newcastle on their way, but, instead, the game stayed tight, partly because Radebe did an excellent job in marking Beardsley and partly because, with Givola injured and Gilleville surprisingly omitted, Newcastle had no width, most of their attacks going straight through the middle to founder on the trio of Leeds' central defenders.

When the second half began, Hislop, who, until then, had been in most danger from his own defenders — Peacock twice playing poor back-passes and Lee passing straight across goal to Rush — found Leeds beginning to attack with more purpose. The chances that Rush would once have snappet up now went begging, however, and finally Newcastle assumed control.

The turning-point came when Shearer, who had just been booked for a late challenge on Wetherall, was brought down as he went round Martyn. Newcastle claimed the penalty: a free kick just outside the penalty area and a red card looked the most convincing verdict, but Paul Danson, the referee, gave nothing, to Newcastle's disgust. They responded by raising their game.

First Shearer scored from another corner, with the help of Palmer's wicked deflection, and then Ferdinand got the goal that he deserved from Lee's cross.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-3-2-1): S. Houghton, S. Watson, D. Peacock, P. Palmer, J. Beardsley — A. Clark, D. Batty, R. Lee — P. Wetherall — J. Shearer, L. Ferdinand LEEDS UNITED (3-1-4-2): N. Martyn — C. Palmer, P. Danson, D. Peacock, J. Radebe, G. R. Wright (sub: A. Givola, 62), M. Moore, J. Adams, S. Barnes — J. Shearer, C. Gilleville, M. Moore, S. Barnes — J. Clark, D. Peacock, P. Palmer, J. Beardsley — A. Clark, D. Batty, R. Lee — P. Wetherall — J. Shearer, L. Ferdinand LEEDS UNITED (3-1-4-2): N. Martyn — C. Palmer, P. Danson, D. Peacock, J. Radebe, G. R. Wright (sub: A. Givola, 62), M. Moore, J. Adams, S. Barnes — J. Clark, D. Peacock, P. Palmer, J. Beardsley — A. Clark, D. Batty, R. Lee — P. Wetherall — J. Shearer, L. Ferdinand LEEDS UNITED (3-1-4-2): N. Martyn — C. Palmer, P. Danson, D. Peacock, J. Radebe, G. R. Wright (sub: A. Givola, 62), M. Moore, J. Adams, S. Barnes — J. Clark, D. Peacock, P. Palmer, J. Beardsley — A. Clark, D. Batty, R. Lee — P. Wetherall — J. Shearer, L. 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## ROWING

# No time for messing about in boats for gifted all-rounder

John Hopkins meets Sarah Winckless, a woman with sporting pedigree whose sights are set on the Sydney Olympic Games

**W**hen you are tall and strong and have a fiercely competitive nature allied with an eye for a ball, then competing at different sports is not unusual. Few, though, compete so successfully at so many different sports as Sarah Winckless, the president of the Cambridge University Women's Boat Club.

Before this academic year Winckless had gained six Blues since she arrived as a fresher at Fitzwilliam College in 1993 to read natural sciences. Her Blues came from competing in athletics for three years — in which she threw the discus, shot and hammer — rowing for two and netball for one, as well as basketball (which counts only as a half-Blue). This year she has the potential to gain further honour by representing the university again at rowing and athletics. "I am tempted to add basketball to the list again this year, but the Varsity match is six weeks before the Boat Race," Winckless said. "I am not sure that is a good thing."

Winckless, who has changed her course to land economy, was introduced to sport by her father when she was young and, though she could run fast, it soon became obvious that field events were her strongest suit. "She had such good long levers," Bob Winckless explained of his daughter. While at Tiffin Girls School in Kingston and later at Millfield, she played county netball and threw the discus for an England under-20 team.

It was when she went up to Cambridge that she started to row seriously. If ever there was a natural progression of events, this was one. Her father had been president of the

Boat Club in 1969 when he was at Fitzwilliam and her stepfather is Mike Hart, an Olympic silver medal-winner in 1976 and world champion medal-winner in 1977, who had rowed for Cambridge in the early Seventies.

Winckless puts herself through up to seven sessions on the water each week and as many again in the gym in pursuit of her aim to lead Cambridge to victory in the women's Boat Race. She is in the process of selecting her best crew for the event, rowed at Henley on March 23, the Sunday before the men's race. "We won by five lengths in 1995, by 1½ lengths this year. I want to make sure we win again," Winckless, who will row No 5 or No 7 said. When she comes down from Cambridge this year, she hopes to find a job that can be fitted around her rowing. Her long-term aim is to represent Great Britain in the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

"It is not uncommon for people to represent the university at two sports, such as rugby and cricket and sometimes multiple sports," Winckless said, "but very few do rowing and anything else. It takes up so much time and finding time is what is difficult. You do not have much time for coffee with friends." I don't wish to offend anyone by saying this, but, as more women have gone up to university, so the standard has risen and the number of women competing in sports has broadened, too." Alan Malcolm, who was director of physical education at Cambridge in all but name for 30 years, said: "Not many people represent the university at more than two sports. I think of Dennis Silk, who played rugby and cricket and Rugby fives. Quite a lot of

people do things like rackets, squash and real tennis and fives, say, which are related sports, but it is very rare to do as much as Sarah does."

Winckless is unable to join the Hawks Club — because it is for male athletes who have won Blues or half-Blues. The irony is that she, perhaps the most supremely-qualified person at the university to be a member of the Ospreys Club, the women's equivalent of the Hawks, chooses not to be one. "It's something to do with being on a student grant and needing to write a cheque for £25," she said, smiling. "It'll happen before I leave, but it's the sort of thing that will be more beneficial to me after I have left to stay in touch with people than it is now."

**T**o squeeze as much into a day as Winckless does calls for impressive use of her time. She first demonstrated this ability as a teenager when she would do her geography while travelling across London on her way to discuss training with her coach. Her work did not suffer. She got ten As at GCSE and won a scholarship to Millfield. No less impressive was her 2½ in the land economy exams that she took last year while also competing in trials for the British women's rowing squad for the world championships.

Winckless is self-effacing, describing herself as being just like anyone else. Yet the fact that she parental is not tends to bring on feelings of inadequacy in one who talks to her for any length of time. Just as that feeling was settling on me, I noticed that, in describing the tasks of a rowing eight in my notebook, she had written technique as technique. There is hope for the rest of us yet.



Winckless aims to maintain the Cambridge dominance of the women's Boat Race at Henley

## SAILING

## Dumont gybes into trouble

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE string of disasters being visited on the Vendée Globe single-handed non-stop round-the-world fleet continue unabated. This weekend another competitor looks in danger of having to make a stop after his boom was broken yesterday.

Dumont, who is several hundred miles south of Hobart, reported: "On an unfortunate gybe, the boom guy

broke, the boom preventer broke and the boom crashed over. It is now in two pieces."

Dumont, who has never attempted a circumnavigation before but has completed 25 Atlantic crossings, is also having to sail under jib and mizzen, but I'm tired and a new low-pressure system is on the way."

Meanwhile, in the BT Global Challenge, three more yachts, *Pause To Remember*, *Nuclear Electric* and *Ocean Rover*, finished at Wellington yesterday in seventh, eighth and ninth places for the second leg, respectively. This leaves a further four boats still racing, plus the dismasted *Concert*.

**DETAILS**

**FINISHERS:** 1. Group 4 100 16.000KG: Sunbeam 2. Sunbeam The Chieftain (23/24) 17.000KG: Tachina Wave Warmer (14/27/28) 4. Motorist (23/24/25) 5. Global Teamwork (08/09/10) 6. Commercial Union (09/10/11) 7. Nuclear Electric (11/22/23) 8. Nuclear Electric (20/25/27) 10. 30m 11. 100m 12. 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## SQUASH

## Wheat's damaged heart beats at compelling tempo

Andrew Longmore meets a young player for whom ill health served as inspiration

WHEN the consultant told Chris Wheat that he should play what sport he could manage, it is probable that snooker or a gentle game of cricket were considered suitable sports for a boy with two holes in his heart and a medical record as long as the New Year's Honours List. Wheat, though, had other ideas, and a measure of his own relentless determination to pursue them can be found on the main draw for the British junior open squash championships, which begin today in Sheffield.

Wheat has been drawn to meet Morten Sorensen, of Denmark, in the first round and, if, realistically, his chances of becoming champion on this year are slender, most medical opinion would suggest that, by rising through the ranks to become one of the most promising juniors in the country, the miracle has already been worked.

For most of the first five years of his life, survival was about the limit of the Wheat family's ambitions for their only son after a large hole in the ventricle had been diagnosed at the age of three months. That meant that the oxygenated blood was being mixed with the deoxygenated blood, weakening the frail body to such an extent that the doctors did not consider an operation practical in those early years.

Soon after, a second hole was discovered in the same section of the heart. An operation scheduled at the age of



Wheat: medical miracle

two was postponed and again two years later when one of the two holes had closed. To complicate matters further, Wheat began to suffer from epilepsy. For his parents, life was one long return ticket to the Brompton Hospital and days inside doctors' surgeries.

"I could hear the 'shooosh, shooosh' of the blood going through the hole when he was lying in our bed," Brenda, his mother, recalled. "We just seemed to go from one thing to another, from bad to worse. We were on the edge all the time. Looking back, I wonder how we got through."

Courage is clearly hereditary in the Wheat family and more than once the doctors must have looked at the pale

little boy before them and marvelled at his ability to fight. "The consultant said he just had something in him which told him to hang on and that has carried through into his squash," Brenda said.

Even at the age of nearly 18, there is not a lot of him, but most of Wheat's opponents will tell you that, what he lacks in power, he makes up for in mental strength and stamina.

As the doctors found out, he is hard to beat. He is studying for his A levels at Colchester Sixth Form College, wants to become a physio and cannot quite work out what all the fuss is about. The doctors still hope that the hole will close in time. Otherwise, the only legacies of his early illness are the biannual visit to the Brompton Hospital and the ached curiosity of outsiders.

"I feel just as fit as everyone else," he said. "I'm actually known for being very fit. I'm one of those boring players who knocks the ball up and down the wall for hours and waits for the other chap to miss. What's happened to me never really comes into it."

His mother does not forget

so easily. "The first time I

realised he was playing seriously — I hadn't watched him for a while — I got quite frightened at the pace he was playing," she said. "I didn't realise how good he was getting, but we've never tried to stop him playing."

The only rule of the household is that, if Chris should feel unwell on court, he should shake hands and retire. The bond has been broken once, during the final of a tournament in Norfolk.

"He didn't go for a shot and I thought 'there's something wrong here,'" Derek, his father, said, "but he carried on and actually won that game, though he lost in the end."

It turned out that Chris had suffered a quickening of the heartbeat. "I thought I had too much caffeine in my blood," he said, a disingenuous excuse which did not soothe his mother's fears. She, though, is the odd one out, the non-squash-player in the family that can also boast daughter Laura, who played for Essex at under-19 level.

Ahmed Faizy, of Egypt, now the world junior champion, has returned to defend the under-19 title in Sheffield, with Amr Shabana, his younger compatriot, as No 2 seed and Karin El Mistekawi, yet another Egyptian, sharing No 3 seedling with John Russell, of Kent.

Lee Beachillo, the British junior champion from Yorkshire, is just too old to qualify this year, but Russell gave both Faizy and El Mistekawi all sorts of problems in the world junior championships in Cairo last year.

Jonathan Kemp, of Shropshire, is the No 1 seed for the under-16 title, but will be threatened by a number of talented foreign players.

In Newcastle upon Tyne, a statue of

the great world talents to come.

Certainly, the Drysdale Cup, that is offered by the RAC club as the trophy for the British open under-19 boys champion each year, carries an impressive list of international promise since C. J. Wilson, of Repton, first took it in 1926.

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"I have to be careful not to

overdo things too soon, but I

would say I am hopeful of

being fit and ready to start the

new season in April."

## CRICKET

## Newport on road to recovery

PHIL NEWPORT, the Worcestershire and former England team bowler, is confident that he will be fit for the start of the 1997 season as he starts rehabilitation after an operation to cure an Achilles tendon injury.

Newport, one of the key figures in the glory years of the Ian Botham era, missed two thirds of last season after being struck down with the Achilles trouble.

Newport, who has played in three Test matches, said: "Last season was frustrating and was the first long spell I have had out of action for seven years. When you've probably got three or four years left at the most in your career, the last thing you want is to be out of action too."

"I had six weeks' recuperation after the operation, but I have started doing work in the gymnasium, bike work, jogging and so on and am gradually easing back into things."

The big test will come later this month when winter nets get underway and there is a big difference between doing gymnasium work and bowling flat out, but things are going well.

"I have to be careful not to overdo things too soon, but I would say I am hopeful of being fit and ready to start the new season in April."

## GOLF: SCHOFIELD PAYS TRIBUTE TO WAY SPANIARDS ARE PREPARING FOR CLASH WITH AMERICANS

### Patino dismisses 'unfair' Ryder Cup criticism

BY JOHN HOPKINS  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

many comments to that effect lately and now I've had enough. This really is a bit much. It is easy to criticise. We are doing our best under the circumstances. We have to play together.

Spain has made a wonderful contribution to golf in Europe and any suggestion that it is not capable of staging this event is absurd and insulting.

"It has been our objective from day one to run the best possible Ryder Cup and from the quality of the venue to the attention to detail that is being shown. Everything that needs to be done is being done."

The premise that Spain can't organise a raffle is ridiculous," Patino said, speaking from his home near Valderrama, ten miles east of Gibralfaro. "There have been far too

Jacklin, when he was the Ryder Cup captain of the Europe team in the mid-Eighties. The phrase has often been repeated, much to the chagrin of the Spaniards, and...

"Do we have to keep reminding everybody that the World Cup soccer and Expo 92 were enormously successful and that the Barcelona Olympics were among the most successful Games held anywhere?" Patino asked. "No other country has hosted three such events in such a short timespan."

"Grandstand viewing will be provided for up to 11,000 spectators and, for the first time at a golf tournament, there will be three jumbo screens enabling spectators to follow the action as it unfolds elsewhere on the course."

Patino said that the stories of fake Ryder Cup tickets being already in circulation were untrue. The tickets have not yet been printed, he said.

"As to the criticism of a lack of hotel rooms within the immediate vicinity, let me point out that at Oak Hill in 1995, people were staying in Buffalo, 1½ hours away, and, at Kiawah Island for the 1991 match, spectators had to come from Charleston, which was 1½ hours' drive."

"Why do people pick on Valderrama and say they expect to be able to stay in a five-star hotel within a few minutes' drive. They didn't complain in 1995 or 1991. Why start complaining now?"

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There is good news for somebody among the world's top putters: Chris Boardman will not defend his 4,000 metres world title in Perth, Australia, in August. That was the first event to be scrubbed from his 1997 racing programme, which he had just agreed with Roger Legeay, his GOLF team director.

Instead, Boardman will concentrate on road events and yesterday confirmed his three main targets: the Tour de France, his debut in the Tour of Spain, followed, ten days later, by the world time-trial championship in San Sebastian in October.

Along the way there will be a demanding series of continental races, each planned to prepare Boardman, 28, for his chosen targets:

Boardman, in optimistic mood, said: "It's been hard in recent weeks to get the motivation for the necessary four or even six hours daily training rides, so often on my own. Now, however, it's starting to build up."

Later this month Boardman plans to remedy the loneliness of the long-distance rider. He is drawing up a route for a seven-day mini tour of Great Britain training ride and will invite many of the country's top riders to join him on what

## Boardman lists his new year priorities

BY PETER BRYAN

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Boardman starts his racing season later than usual and misses the Tour of the Mediterranean in February and expects to share leadership of his GOLF team during his Tour de France build-up with Frederic Moncassin.

□ Snow and ice wreaked havoc with the traditional New Year's Day time-trial programme, including the cancellation of the Southborough and District ten-mile event at Betherston, Kent.

The CC Cardiff 8.8 miles trial was the only event to be held — a light fall of snow, holding off until the last rider had finished. The winner, for the fourth year in succession, was Colin Wallace, of Hirwaun.

## ROWING: EVENT'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY OFFERS CHANCE TO DEVELOP QUALITY OF COMPETITION

### Henley women's regatta seeks to attract sponsors

BY MIKE ROSEWELL

A FEATURE of British rowing in the past ten years has been the growth of women's participation. The vast majority of the 250 rowing clubs now allow women not only across their ports but also into their boats, with many, such as Thames Rowing Club, longer established, mainly male, summer highlight on the Henley reach — has always resisted sponsorship, but Margaret Adams, the women's Hen-

ley chairman, sees sponsorship as the route to greater things. "We are at that stage of our development where we need external funding to enable us to widen the scope of our activities to offer competitors the best," she said. The push for support for the tenth birthday of the women's Henley coincides with the year that women's rowing in this country celebrates its centenary, and the regatta organisers are planning several special events, including an international university challenge race, to celebrate both

anniversaries. The sponsorship campaign, mounted by Berrido and Company, aims to raise £30,000 a year for the next three years.

For the past eight years British rowing has effectively been led by a woman with Di Ellis being chairman of the powerful executive committee of the Amateur Rowing Association. Ellis said yesterday: "We must have world-class events to attract world-class competition. Investment in women's Henley will identify talented competitors for a golden millennium."

## Order of the Jug the ultimate handle



Bird, the umpire, and the commemorative jug that holds him up as one of the great characters of cricket

ham Forest defender, for £19.99. Liverpool oven gloves will cost you £4.99, a bottle of Manchester whisky £10.99 and a bar of Southampton soap 99p.

Bird managed to avoid death threats and duckings and, after overseeing 66 Test matches, he was transformed from a cricket umpire to something of a lovable national treasure.

An emotional man, he has already been appointed MBE. He wept when he collected his medal from the palace. He has been honoured, too, with an appearance on *Desert Island Discs* and wept as he chose his records. His reaction to the creation of his character jug has not yet been recorded.

Bird is not alone in being immortalised by the makers of the character jug. He is joined by English cricket's greatest legend — the "W. G. Grace Character Jug", which boasts details including the famous MCC cap and "tinges of grey in the giant's beard".

There is, too, a "Johnnies Character Jug", commemorating Brian Johnston, the immortal voice of cricket. The handle of this one is made up of a microphone, a cricket ball and a bat. These cricketing greats are complemented by a jug dedicated to Henry Cooper, the heavyweight boxer, on which the handle is fashioned from boxing gloves and a Lonsdale belt.

Collectors' items all, this is a select band









■ CHOICE 1  
The circus extravaganza *Saltimbano* returns to London  
VENUE: Tonight at the Albert Hall



■ CHOICE 2  
Josephine Barstow is Elizabeth I in Opera North's *Gloriana*  
VENUE: Tonight at the Grand, Leeds

■ NEW VIDEOS  
Sean Connery saves the day in the pummelling film about Alcatraz under siege. *The Rock*



■ NEW CDS  
Placido Domingo is the king of Crete in a no-expenses-spared version of Mozart's *Idomeneo*

**LONDON**  
BEEF, NO CHICKEN: Derek Walcott's 1970s lark, set in Trincomalee where a new railway line has been Hogan's Alley, opens at the Lyric Hammersmith. Breezy director for Tolosa's Theatre Co Tricole, 269 Kilburn High Road, NW5 (0171-322 1000). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then 22, 23, 26, 27pm, mat. 4pm. Until Feb 29.

**FILL THE BOMB!** These women and one male mad are the characters in Robbie McCullum's first stage play, directed by the excellent Andrea Brooks. Tarnished, a successful run at the White Bear, Old Red Lion, 21 St John Street, EC1 (0171-837 7816). Preview tonight, 8pm. Opens tomorrow, 7pm. Then Tues-Fri, 7-8pm. Until Jan 25.

**SALTIMBANO** has been described as "the greatest show on earth". Saltimbano is a kaleidoscope of performance art, theatre, circus and rock 'n' roll. Cirque du Soleil's breathtaking show on the theme of urban life is crowded with scenes of acrobatics and performance that mixes the trappings of carnival with commercial allure.

Albert Hall, Kensington High St, London W1 (0171-585 2121). Opens 7pm. Tues-Fri, 7-8pm. Then Sat, 7-8pm. Until Jan 19.

**THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN:** Touching and convincing adaptation of Mark Twain's masterpiece. Lovely pair of central performances, and good playing up and down the cast. Royal Exchange, Greenwich, Coombe Hill, SE10 (0181-655 7759). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Until January 25.

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST:** The Christmas shows at the theatre are among the very best in the country. Lulu and Leon direct this year's, with matinees and matinées making the Beast's palace. Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-855 6853). Various times, 10.30am, 1.30pm, 2.30pm. Until February 1.

**THE COUNTRY ORCHARD:** Ferocious RSC cast, directed by Peter Hall, with Alan McCowan and David Throupin, in a production by Adrian Noble. Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-389 1730). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

**THE CRIMES OF INISHMAAN:** Nicholas Hytner directs the second play by Brian Friel, set in the 1930s on an island off the west coast of Ireland not chosen by Robert Flaherty for his film Man of Aran. Theatr Clwyd, Llangollen (0171-235 2252). Now previewing. 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. Opens Jan 7. 7pm. In rep.

**THE FIRST WIVES CLUB:** Comedy about voracious Manhattan wives, with juicy parts for Diane Keaton, Bette Midler and Meryl Streep. Empire (0171-923 9999). Opens 7pm. Mon-Sat, 8pm. Tues-Sun, 2.30pm. Until Feb 21.

**THE GHOST OF WILLIAM WORKE:** Diana Rigg and David Suchet in Howard Da Silva's powerful Almeida production of Abber's selling play (0171-585 2122). Tues-Fri, 7.30pm. Sat, 2.30pm. Until March 22.

**MACBETH:** Resounding production by Tim Albery, with Roger Allam and Ben Brannan as Mr and Mrs Thane. Adrien Schiavone is the brilliant Porter ever seen. National Theatre, Queen's Hall, WC2 (0110-828 2881). Tues-Fri, 7.30pm. Sat, 2.30pm. Sun, 3pm. Until March 1.

**MARY'S LITTLE LITTLE:** Clever gathering of Sonohra out-takes, age-gracefully sung by Robbie Rotten and Civic in a 65th-anniversary show. British Comedy, 101 Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-928 3434). Tues-Sun, Jan 4, 7.11-7.30pm. Mat 8.30pm. Until March 22.

**MIDNIGHT'S NIGHTS:** Dream. Jonathan Miller's 1970s update makes the lines witty in unexpected directions. With Robert Stephens, Niamh Redmond, Angela Lansbury and others. Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Until February 1.

**MISS CROOME:** Anthony Newley back on the West End stage singing the title

**TODAY'S CHOICE**  
A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Moxey

**ELSEWHERE**

**INTERVIEW:** The Last Temptation, Arthur Miller's intense, moving play about four people struggling to make sense of modern-day America continues to draw audiences to the Vic's season. The Old Vic, Vic's King Street (0171-887 7877). Tonight, 8pm. Then Mon-Wed, 7.30pm. Thurs-Sat, 8pm. Mat 7.30pm. Sun, 2.30pm. Until January 18.

**CARDIFF:** Moscow City Ballet's lavishly produced production of Swan Lake, with a new score. With the National Ballet's Christopher, St. David's Hall, Wellington (01222 678444). Tonight, 7.30pm. Then Fri and Sat, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Sun, 8pm. Until Jan 19.

**LEEDS:** Josephine Barstow sings the role of Elizabeth I, struggling to reconcile her love for the King with her duty in Open North's award-winning, touring production of Britten's Gloriana. At the

Thermae, Swanage (01302 2235). Tues-Fri, 7.30pm. Sat, 2.30pm. Sun, 3pm. Until Jan 19.

**THEATRE GUIDE**  
Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing to London

■ House full, returns only  
■ Seats available  
■ Seats at all prices

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■ MIDN

THE TIMES THURSDAY JANUARY 2 1997



■ VISUAL ART  
If you love paintings and the places where they hang, New York's Frick Collection is unmissable



■ CONCERT  
Robert King and the King's Consort till the Wigmore Hall with a feast of seasonal songs for New Year's Eve

THE TIMES  
ARTS



■ POP 1  
Boyzone see 1996 to a close with a gig in Dublin that is almost more pantomime than pop concert



■ POP 2  
... while a noisy crowd of 15,000 see in 1997 at an all-night rave at London's grand old Alexandra Palace

If These Walls Could Speak: Michael Henderson on the civilised delights of New York's Frick art collection

## The best that money could buy

The greatest collection of paintings in the world adjoins Fifth Avenue, a few steps away from Madison Avenue at its most exclusive. It costs \$7 to go in, and there are never more than a hundred or so people there at any time. If you love paintings, and the places where they hang, it is not hard to make a case for the Frick Collection as the most glorious place on earth.

Note the word, collection. This is no common-or-garden gallery or museum, of which Manhattan has plenty. Ten blocks up the road there is the Metropolitan, which is too vast to absorb in a single visit, and further up "Museum Mile" is the Guggenheim, the only building in New York designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, who detested the city. In midtown, the Museum of Modern Art, which holds many of the best paintings of the century, and some of the very worst, is ever fashionable. They are all wonderful places, but if you want to enjoy an unrivalled range of masterpieces without disruption, the Frick is unsurpassable.

Of course, it all depends on your taste. There are people for whom the greatest works of Rembrandt, Titian and Goya mean nothing, just as there are those who speak lightly of the *Miss Solemnis*. Fine, let them wallow in the overwhelming talentlessness of Pollock at MOMA, or the latest international blockbuster, at the Met. It leaves more room for those who value art as something more than a gaudy spin on a trendy cause.

Henry Clay Frick made his money in Pittsburgh 100 years ago and acquired his collection of paintings and decorative arts on several trips to Europe. It is pleasingly quirky, but nobody can say that he lacked discrimination. However ruthless these American parvenus were in business, their aesthetic judgment was a good deal better than the smarmies in modern-day New York. You can imagine

what Frick would have thought about "conceptual" art and the like. He simply wanted the best that money could buy, and he had plenty of the following stuff.

Three features make the Frick unique: the quality of the collection, the harmonious way the works are arranged and the intimacy of the hanging, as though visitors are guests in somebody's house, which makes them and it has a human scale and proportion reflected not only in the magnificent paintings but also the supravital displays of European sculpture, furniture and porcelain. Even if there was nothing much to look at, the Frick's resizing and odd-world civility would still make it a place worth visiting.

But, my word, there is something to look at. Almost every great artist from Piero della Francesca to Degas is represented here, very often by his finest work. There is a room devoted to Boucher, another to Fragonard, and two rooms of English paintings. Other works — a Manet here, a Corot there — hang in splendid isolation around a central courtyard, where weary souls can rest beside two small fountains.

Two rooms in particular stand out. The Living Hall holds only six portraits, but what portraits. Holbein's *St Thomas More* and *Thomas Cromwell*, face a matching pair of *Titian, A Man, in a Red Cap* and *Veronese, Ariosto*, between which *Bellini, St. Girolamo in the Desert*, stares at St George's *St Jerome*. "That man is alive," I once heard an American lady say of Thomas More, and you may well think the Lord Chancellor still breathes. It seems the greatest picture in the world, until you reach the West Gallery, and see the picture that really is the best.

No matter how many times you come across Rembrandt's 1658 self-portrait, every encounter is fresh.

Like all great works of art, nobody can ever "know" it completely. On one occasion, I stood before this painting for 35 minutes, oblivious to everything and everybody else. It occupies the same emotional world of late Shakespeare and late Beethoven, the only minds truly comparable with Rembrandt's, and it speaks of a knowledge gained at a cost too immense to contemplate.

Everybody has their favourites in the Frick and I am not reluctant to

divulge mine. They include Van Dyck's portrait of Francis Bacon, *The Comtesse d'Haussonville* by Ingres, Chardin's *Still Life with Plums*, Lawrence's *Lady Peel and Vermeer's Officer and Laughing Girl*. If I had to live with only one painting in the whole world, it would be the Vermeer, which adorns a wall in the south hall almost casually, as though somebody had just stuck it there.

Off-the-beaten-track collections

tend to be special places. Places such as the Dahlem Museum in Berlin, with its marvellous Dutch rooms, the Lenbachhaus in Munich, home to Kandinsky, or the Isabella Gardner Museum in Boston, attract the enthusiast who prefers to enjoy great works away from the crowds that clutter the more famous galleries. Horror stories abound of major exhibitions, particularly in America. Only in New York could you see the

appalling ignorance that made the 1991 *Matissé* exhibition at MOMA such a trial. Carnegie Hall on a big night is much the same. People go there to swank.

To be ever-handed, only in New York can you find a private collection such as the Frick, a private collection such as the Frick, a national treasure that prefers to remain a neighbourhood jewel, and may it remain largely undiscovered. The last thing that Frick-lovers want is a troupe of

backwoodsmen charging about the place as if it were one more location on the tourist trail.

Other than the National Gallery, I have spent more hours in the Frick Collection than in any other picture-house in the world, and I do not consider a single moment to have been wasted. Along with Lord's cricket ground, where I have spent a few hours more, the big house at 1 East 70th Street is my favourite place in the world.

Inside the Frick gallery: "The last thing Frick-lovers want is a troupe of backwoodsmen charging about the place as if it were one more location on the tourist trail"

NEW YEAR'S EVE POP: Raving the night away in London, screaming it down in Dublin

## High on the hogmanay

TRADITIONALLY the busiest night of the year for dance music DJs. New Year's Eve finds the most in-demand jockeys quadrupling their fees and hiring helicopters to hop from one lucrative event to another. And since 15,000 people gladly paid close to £30 each for a ticket to Mount Universe on Tuesday night, it is easy to appreciate the hard economic logic behind such behaviour.

This mammoth all-night party was organised jointly by the

Mount Universe  
Alexandra  
Palace

seasoned rave promoters Universe and rock festival veterans The Mean Fiddler. Unsurprisingly, then, this was a smooth and precisely run affair, with vast lighting rigs and highly professional sound. There was even an indoor fairground in the Palace's Great Hall, while giant silver foil ornaments dangled from the vaulted ceilings of the West Hall.

Central to the event was the six-hour set by Sasha and John Digweed, currently Britain's hottest DJ team, who expertly carved swooping gradients and dramatic crescendos into what sounded like a seamless collage of galloping house beats. Other highlights included the mashed-up techno brutalism of Detroit's Jeff Mills and an impressive appearance by veteran Chicago house pioneer Marshall Jefferson. Although the dance music world is a notoriously fickle one which votes, quite literally, with its feet, Jefferson managed to hold the crowd's attention despite wearing a jumpsuit seemingly borrowed from an ancient *Star Trek* episode.

The only truly "live" act was Orbital, rounding off



More panto than pop: Boyzone's music is almost a sideshow to the dance and costumes

## Famous five go strutting

AS THE show, and with it 1996, drew to a close, the cauldron of screaming pre-pubescent and early teenage girls that was Dublin's RDS Main Hall sent out loud and clear the message that this was Silver's year.

Having originally been dismissed in some quarters as an inferior-brand Take That, the departure of Robbie Williams from that Manchester super-group and their subsequent split effectively meant that Boyzone woke up one morning to find themselves no longer on the coat tails of their teen-pop rivals, but actually wearing the emperor's clothes. In pop music, just as in comedy, timing is everything.

After an hour and a half spent with eyes glued to the almost slavishly rehearsed but no less compelling spectacle that is a Boyzone concert, it becomes clear that Ronan is not just the star of the show, but the only member of the five strutting their stuff on stage who exhibits genuine star quality. Always looking completely at ease with the

near pandemonium caused by a few thousand lust-filled Zone-ettes hysterically waving luminous green rings, the golden boy with the shock of blonde hair and Adonis-like features pushed all the right buttons and hit all the right notes — a talent that the rest haven't quite mastered yet.

Boyzone  
RDS, Dublin

The music is, of course, almost a sideshow to the synchronised dance routines, the moving stage props, the on-stage video close-ups and so on. At times, it seems more pantomime than pop concert. You've just got to laugh when a tot who must have been no older than seven passionately sings along to the line from *Father and Son*: "Look at me, I am old but I'm happy".

The interplay between audience and artist was basically a simulation of Bealemania in the Shea Stadium —

NICK KELLY

CONCERT: A fine performance of music for the season

## Singing in the new at a spanking pace

King's Consort  
Wigmore Hall

WHAT better way to see the year out than in the company of Robert King and his consort in a programme of seasonal music at the Wigmore Hall?

Under the heading *Weihnachten in Leipzig* (Christmas in Leipzig), they presented music by three cantors of the Thomasschule in that city, not excluding the greatest of them all.

Vocal music by Bach was juxtaposed with items by two of his predecessors in Leipzig, Johann Kuhnau and Johann Schelle, and by the Sinfonia in C Minor (the only purely instrumental piece) of his pupil, Johann Ludwig Krebs.

The cantata was in a state of evolution in the second half of the 17th century, and the works by Schelle and Kuhnau demonstrated two of the types in evidence at the time. Schelle's *Ach, mein herzliebes Jesulein*, based on the well-known Luther hymn *Vom Himmel hoch*, uses not a chorus but two sopranos and continuo. Wonderfully fresh in invention, it was brought alive by two highly characterised yet well-blended singers: Deborah York and Tessa Bonner.

Kuhnau's *O heilige Zeit*, though in the old-fashioned style of the sacred concerto, was the other great discovery of the evening: expressive harmonies, imaginative word-painting and a surprise ending (a quiet meditative exclamation of the much-repeated words of the title — "O holy time!"). James Bowman and Deborah York both had fine solos here and tempi were judiciously chosen to heighten emotional effect.

King's judgment is not always faultless in this regard. Bach's *Ehre sei dir, Gott*, gesungen (the opening chorus of part 5 of the Christmas Oratorio) set off at such a spanking pace that its lovely modulations went for nothing.

Tracing  
OPERA  
10  
Anne Davies  
Peter Kapp

Mozart  
DON  
GIOVANNI  
3rd January  
Verdi  
LA TRAVIATA  
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John Gribbin on the Astronomer Royal's exploration of the infinite

# And this Universe is just right

If you are intrigued by the discoveries in astronomy that make headline news, but all you know about them is what you read in the newspapers, this is the ideal book in which to find out more, and set those stories in context. If you are a widely read astronomy group, you may find that much of what Sir Martin Rees has to tell covers familiar ground. But the personal perspective on current developments in cosmology from the Astronomer Royal is still well worth reading, since Rees has been in the vanguard of many of those developments that make headlines, and gives an insider's view of one of the most exciting areas of science today.

Rees is the most influential and highly regarded British astronomer of his generation, but one with a relatively low public profile. This book will do no harm to his reputation, but should make the world at large more aware of his abilities. He writes about the nature of the Universe we live in, its origin and fate, and the possibility that it is just one bubble in a sea of cosmic foam.

This is, surely, the ultimate development of the Copernican view of the cosmos. Copernicus showed us that the Earth is not the centre of the Universe, but a planet which, like the other planets, orbits around the Sun. Since then, we have learnt that the Sun is just an ordinary star, one of a hundred billion or so similar stars wheeling around in a disc-shaped system, the Milky Way Galaxy. In the present century, astronomers have discovered hundreds of millions of other galaxies, and although for a long time it was thought that our Milky Way was an unusually large specimen, the latest investigations (with which I have been involved) have shown that it is slightly smaller than average.

We live on an ordinary planet, orbiting an ordinary star, in an ordinary galaxy. Now it seems that the totality of everything we can see, all those hundreds of millions of galaxies forming the visible Universe, may be one speck in an infinite array of universes.

In order to lead us up to this dramatic conclusion, Rees tells the story of the Big Bang model of the Universe, and the evidence (especially from the famous cosmic microwave background radiation) that our Universe really was born out of a

BEFORE THE BEGINNING  
Our Universe and Others  
By Martin Rees  
Simon & Schuster, £16.99  
ISBN 0 68411042 2



The Hubble Telescope's view of the Eagle nebula

superdense, superhot fireball some 15 billion years ago. He explains the theory of black holes, discusses the dark matter which dominates our Universe and even digresses into a brief discussion of time travel. There are also tantalising tit-bits of information about the characters involved in the investigation of the Universe (often hidden away in footnotes) where Rees just barely allows us an insight into his feelings about the way science is done, and the way credit is (sometimes mistakenly) apportioned.

This is heady stuff by the standards of Rees's usual public utterances. Too often these days, a scientist who does anything mildly interesting rushes out a press release claiming to have achieved the ultimate breakthrough. Rees is different. Although happy to spend a large part of his professional life investigating the implications of way out ideas (he was, for example, the leading proponent of the idea that the distant, energetic objects

of half open drawers like the aftermath of a burglary). In reaction, Marian's own energies have been pugnaciously dedicated to ordering a household and attending to the needs of her children. Nevertheless, her marriage has failed, and there is an emptiness at the centre of her life.

Stella's shrugging independence of spirit makes her a more likeable figure than her daughter, so when Stella dies, Paton Walsh needs some guile to involve us in Marian's attempt to uncover the identity of a father she has never known. Craftily placed clues about Stella's life beckon us on. Marian has taken no pride whatever in her mother's painting, since an early boyfriend pronounced the canvases appalling dubs. An obituary of Stella in *The Times*, therefore, is something of a shock for her, and a satisfying surprise for the reader. With the help of a

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MARIAN'S children are well observed: Alice is a musician with a racketeering life, and Toby a City dealer suspected of insider trading. It is not through Alice and Toby, however, that the story achieves contemporary relevance. That lies in a felt tension between mother and daughter which remains vibrant. To this reader's relief, Stella is vindicated as a creditable if minor artist and a good-enough mother. And the despised paintings turn out to include two of three Alfred Wallises and a Nicholson.

known as quasars are powered by black holes in their hearts, each with a mass as great as a hundred million stars like our Sun put together), trying to get an even mildly sensational comment from him to use in a news report about these ideas has been about as easy as persuading him to let you pull his teeth out. It seems that we owe his cautious step towards the sensational here to his editor at Simon & Schuster, Nick Webb, whom he thanks for urging "that I should speculate a bit, and include controversial topics." We are all indebted to Nick Webb for that advice.

The most fascinating example of where this kind of informed speculation can lead is the notion of anthropic cosmology, which considers the relationship between humankind and the Universe at large. The fact that the Universe is just right for us to live in may seem like a tautology — we have evolved to fit the Universe we live in. But the existence of our kind of universe depends on many subtle balances in the laws of physics and it is possible to imagine universes in which those laws are different (so that, for example, stars run through their life cycles more quickly, so that there would not be time for life forms like us to evolve).

You would never guess from his discussion of anthropic reasoning, but Rees was, in fact, one of the pioneers of the modern version of this kind of speculation. His favoured explanation is that, rather than our Universe being "tailor made" for us, there is a vast array of different universes, and that inevitably life can only exist in a universe rather like the one we live in. "If you go to a clothes shop with a large stock," he points out, "it isn't surprising to find a suit that fits you."

And where are these other universes? Would you believe, at the other end of all the black holes in our Universe?

Rees writes in a thoughtful, slightly old-fashioned style, the professor letting his hair down just a bit for a wider audience.

I'd have liked to see him letting his hair down even more, and getting a bit more excited about these truly exciting ideas.

But perhaps he feels that the excitement in the ideas speaks for itself, and that no embellishment is necessary. He writes clearly and accessibly, and anyone who starts his book will surely find their way to the end without getting lost.

Madonna as Eva Peron in Alan Parker's film of *Evita*; from *The Making of Evita* by Alan Parker, Bondtree, £12.99

## Cry instead for the fate of Argentina

Norman Thomas di Giovanni

EVA PERON

By Alicia Dujovne Ortiz  
Warner Books, £6.99  
ISBN 0 7515 9465 6

SANTA EVITA

By Tomás Eloy Martínez  
Doubleday, £15.99  
ISBN 0 385 40257 7

Are we supposed to admire something in the abysmal mediocrity of our River Plate? Mrs Santa Claus, whose life work was to hand out the packets of sugar, false teeth, refrigerators, trousseaus and homes that are summarised as "the direct redistribution of riches"? To the detriment of legitimate feminist aims one detects a tawdry feminist subtext, the basis of which seems to be *Evita's* cleverness in comparison to her husband's ineffectiveness. Nor has this biography been well served by the translation. A couple of comic examples will suffice: *ranchos* are hotels, not ranches; *yerba* dried is the sun is not herbs but mate leaves.

Tomás Eloy Martínez's novel, which has literary pretensions (and the translation of which is also marred) is disturbing. The book contains many eloquent, dramatic and colourful sequences. They are rich in human character, good storytelling, and the haunting forlornness that is Argentina.

But where is the book's moral centre? Why write a novel

based on a life that already exceeds a novel's believability unless it is to use factual truth to get an essential truth?

But the author plays

Borges's game with shifting mirrors to such an extent that one is lost in postmodern mishmash in which the story told is heavily interlarded with the story of how the story was leased into being. The main story is that of the Beloved's elaborately entombed corpse, which were missing for more than a decade, and the secret service colonel in charge of hiding and disposing of it.

First, except for the excessive authorial intrusion, which begins with a footnote to clarify that a quoted letter is real. The letter is perfectly authentic, fictional or actual, until one reads that note. The result is the creation of more mystery and speculation, when Argentina needs to be brought out of barbarism into the sunshine and light of civilisation.

What *Evita* bequeathed was not lawful rights but favours from the top. *Evita* never misappropriated funds, it is said, yet she left an estate worth millions. Far worse than the theft of money, she stole people's minds. The regime's indoctrination of schoolchildren may have been its chief crime, such brain-washing has not only crippled generations of Argentines but has also prolonged the authoritarianism which has been the country's scourge since the first usurpator took Argentine soil.

## Going to St Ives

Elaine Feinstein

THE SERPENTINE CAVE  
By Jill Paton Walsh  
Doubleday, £12.99  
ISBN 0 385 40847 1

anything more than an eccentric indifference to "unwashed suds" lying on the trestle among the paints, clothes cast everywhere and hanging out

of half open drawers like the aftermath of a burglary". In reaction, Marian's own energies have been pugnaciously dedicated to ordering a household and attending to the needs of her children. Nevertheless, her marriage has failed, and there is an emptiness at the centre of her life.

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## Varied views of life behind papal walls

Roger Boyes

HIS HOLINESS John Paul II and the Hidden History of Our Time  
By Carl Bernstein and Marco Politi  
Doubleday, £20  
ISBN 0 385 40258 3

INSIDE THE VATICAN

The Politics and Organisation of the Catholic Church  
By Thomas J. Reese  
Harvard University Press  
£6.50  
ISBN 0 674 82820 9

shown with John Paul, passing spy satellite photographs across the polished mahogany surface of the Pope's desk. The pictures show the Lenin shipyards in Gdańsk.

"What is this?" asked the vicar of Christ. He pointed to the circle.

"Heavy equipment," Father — military vehicles, personnel carriers, tanks for use by the Polish security forces.

"Other photographs are squeezed for information and comment that is then crammed into a story worthy of a Marvel action comic. General Vernon Walters, Ronald Reagan's special envoy, is

used for military assault, not for agriculture."

Well, this is the Pope as we know and love him, a man famous for his fascination with missile silos. You begin to smell a rat when the authors stress the deep Roman Catholic roots of Reagan, Walters and CIA director William Casey. Bernstein and Politi are desperate to find common ground between their two heroes. Were they not both actors? And is not the Vatican a kind of superpower with command over hundreds of millions of Catholics, with its own government, intelligence service and political ambitions? "An ideal intelligence agency would be set up the way the Vatican is," security adviser Richard Allen tells Reagan. Here is the heart of the Bernstein and Politi fallacy. Every organisation in the world gathers intelligence but that does not define the organisation. The fact that the Vatican and the United States have spies, and that both Rome and Washington were opposed to communism, does not make for an equivalence.

The Vatican has no territory to defend, no geopolitical role to play, no contribution to its pilgrimage to the West. The Americans also did their modest bit: some dollars flowed into the Solidarnosc underground and political pressure was applied to General Jaruzelski. Yet the case for a holy alliance remains unconvincing.

"It is simply not secret alliance," only secret communication. The Pope and Reagan were as were the many small anti-Communist, Nationalist groups in the dissident movements of central and eastern Europe. The Pope made his contribution, stoking Polish confidence with his pilgrimage in 1979. The Americans also did their modest bit: some dollars flowed into the Solidarnosc underground and political pressure was applied to General Jaruzelski. Yet the case for a holy alliance remains unconvincing.

It is a pity that Thomas Reese's book, *Inside the Vatican*, was not available to the authors when they set about drawing a conspiratorial explanation for the defeat of communism. Reese has given a precise description of the Vatican as an organisation — or rather three interlocking organisations, one dealing with the spiritual administration of one billion Roman Catholics and 4,000 bishops, one running the Vatican ministry and one supporting the extensive foreign policy work of the Pope. In this book too the sources are mainly anonymous.

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Ian McIntyre assesses the lasting power and surprisingly diverse appeal of one of the 19th century's greatest playwrights



Disciplined: Henrik Ibsen in 1870

**A**s a young man, Robert Ferguson was so hypnotised by the novels of Knut Hamsun that he enrolled for a degree course in Norwegian to learn to read them in the original. When he subsequently wrote the life of Norway's greatest novelist, he called it *Enigma*. The title would have served equally well for his new biography of that country's greatest playwright.

A generation has passed since Michael Meyer's life of Henrik Ibsen. New material uncovered since then includes a letter of Ibsen's admitting paternity of the illegitimate child he fathered at 18 and details of how narrowly he escaped forced labour for failing to contribute adequately to the boy's support. Ferguson has also seen the diary of Emile Bardach, long believed lost but simply overlooked in a Parisian library.

The situation with Bardach, daughter of a well-to-do Viennese family, was one of several relationships with young women in Ibsen's later years. ("My wild woodland bird" he wrote to another of them — Hildegard Anderson, his muse for *The Master Builder*.) To Bardach he appears to have talked of divorcing his wife and travelling the world with her, although he also admitted that he was studying her: "She never got her claws into me," he graciously told one of his German translators, "but I used her for my writing."

These "little princesses" were an escape from the bleakness of his marriage. "They live in great comfort and elegance," wrote a visitor in 1893, "but in the most complete bourgeois silence. They are two lonely people, living absolutely in their own worlds." Isaac Bashevis Singer once said he sometimes dreamt of killing his wife but never of leaving her. Ferguson believes that captures Ibsen's feelings towards his Suzannah.

While acknowledging the value of Meyer's monumental study, Ferguson calls it "a biography of the spread of Ibsen's reputation". His own aim is both more modest and more precise, and was brought into focus by John Barton's production of *Peer Gynt* at the Oslo Amfiscenen: "I remember walking away from the theatre and wondering why a man who could create a cosmic circus like that should choose to devote the rest of his life to writing a series of dark analyses of unhappiness."

**HENRIK IBSEN**  
A New Biography  
By Robert Ferguson  
Richard Cohen Books, £25  
ISBN 1 8606 0789

discipline that was almost obsessional. When he returned home after 27 years of self-imposed exile in Italy and Germany he was almost as celebrated as his exact contemporary Tolstoy. An English visitor observed his ritual daily entrance to the Grand Hotel in Kristiania — the invariable black overcoat and stove-pipe hat, the prized decorations pinned to his chest: "A forbidding, disgruntled, tight-lipped presence, sternly dignified, straight as a ramrod — a touch of grim dandyism about him, but with no touch of human kindness about his parchment skin or fierce badger eyes."

The later plays, deeply concerned with the subconscious, greatly interested Freud. (He detected in *Rosmersholm* evidence that Rebecca West had had an incestuous relationship with her father.) When the play had its London premiere in 1941, a reviewer in *The Gentlewoman*, found little to praise: "These Ibsen creatures are vile, unlovable, morbid monsters, and it were well indeed for

society if all such were and drowned themselves at once."

Ibsen may have created the modern theatre, but half a century after his death his genius remained a matter of opinion. "Where do you get your taste in authors?" asks Tyrone derisively in Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night*. "Voltaire, Rousseau, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Ibsen! Atheists, tools, and madmen!"

Theatregoers nonetheless still flock to Ibsen's harrowing dramas, and not only in Oslo's National Theatre or on London's South Bank. *A Doll's House* no longer has great force in western society as an assault on the institution of marriage, but Ferguson, who has lived in Norway for the last 14 years, points out in an intriguing aside that it has assumed meaning for advocates of an Islamic reformation. It has twice in recent years been performed in the Norwegian capital by visiting and native Islamic theatre groups, and has also been adapted as an Iranian film. Ibsen, whose mordant but elusive humour does not always survive translation, might just have permitted himself the grim ghost of a smile.

Ian McIntyre's biography of Robert Burns, *Dirt and Delight*, is published this month by Flamingo, priced £8.99.

ZINN COHEN

## Lost in the Love Hotel

Tobias Hill

**FLIGHT PATHS OF THE EMPEROR**  
Steven Heighton  
Granada, £9.99  
ISBN 1 86207 0018

**you are haunted. You live in an age of airline passengers scattered families, flight paths and far off destinations.**

A writer of poetry and fiction, Steven Heighton has been anthologised, but never fully published in Britain. His prose is charged with strong emotions, but the care and pace of the writing give the emotion balance, making it subtle and intense, as in the sad comedies of a condemned sushi bar in *Five Paintings of a New Japan*, and the hatred of a half-Japanese girl for her father in *Apparition Play*. "Home is if your mother lives, and where," Heighton writes in one of several stories about family life — the distances between mother and son, husband and wife. But for the most part *Flight Paths of the Emperor* is set in Japan itself, a society where the young are *shinjin*, or strange, uncertain creatures

**tutes** who recite 10th-century haiku but hardly talk about Hiroshima.

Heighton documents the generations of Japanese who have become alienated and are in flight from their own history. "A fabulous nightmare from which their parents shooed themselves awake." Echoing through many of the Japanese stories is a haiku by Basho — "Ah, summer grass! All that remains! Of warrior's dreams." In Heighton's vivid, clear prose, the poetic image becomes a haunting motif for the postwar reconstruction of a culture broken almost beyond repair. "After the surrender ... wildflowers bloomed on the ruins, rippled in the hot wind. There was nothing for the children to eat ... I heard other things as well; how faceless Japan had been, how for a while it had been a different place ... waiting for the first touch of a foreign hand. For a sea change, into something, rich and strange."

Tobias Hill's current collection of poems is *Midnight in the City of Clocks* (OUP); his first volume of short stories, *Skin in it*, will be published by Faber in June.



## Legacy of our men in Africa

Thomas Pakenham

**WINDS OF CHANGE**  
By Trevor Royle  
John Murray, £19.99  
ISBN 0 7195 5352 0

**A FIGHTING RETREAT**  
By Robin Neillands  
Hodder & Stoughton  
ISBN 0 340 63520 7

**A**t times Africa seems irredeemable. As Matthew Paris wrote in *The Times* in 1992: "There is no hope for Africa, no hope at all." In *Winds of Change*, a lively book on the colonisation of Britain's African territories, Trevor Royle shows that he is not immune from such black thoughts. "The roll call of disaster is more or less complete," he writes in the introduction.

Fortunately this is a wild exaggeration, as he is the first to demonstrate. Despite civil wars, famines, plagues, miseries and mistakes of every kind, none of the 13 African territories which Britain decolonised between 1957 and 1980 are in a state of collapse at the time of writing — except for Sierra Leone, one of the smallest. Many have made such unexpected economic progress since the British withdrawal that, as Trevor Royle puts it, "the physical remains of the British Empire in Africa are barely discernible." And he means barely discernible under the high-rise buildings, not the high African grass.

So we can take some credit for the success of post-colonial Africa, as well as kicking ourselves for some of the mistakes.

By comparison with Belgium, France and Portugal, Britain has much to celebrate. In the 1940s solid foundations for the future were laid by a small group of mandarins at the Colonial Office, led by Andrew Cohen, with the blessing of Alistair's Colonial Secretary, Arthur Creech Jones.

Royle quotes tellingly from Cohen's report of the late 1940s: "The tasks of social and economic development have a special urgency, because we no longer have indefinite time in front of us."

It is easy to say with hindsight that Britain had left it all too late: freedom for India, promised in principle before the Second World War, was bound to have an incapacitating effect on Africa. The fact

British colonial records, the tape-recordings at St Antony's, Oxford). The book documents vividly the confused feelings of the British administrators at the handing over of their colonies: shock at the speed of events, sadness at leaving, pride in a job well done, born.

Predictably, Britain's biggest error in constitutional design was in Nigeria, where a quarter of Africa's population were thrown together in a half-baked federation, weighted to favour the North. But even in Nigeria, tormented by civil war in the 1960s and looted by corrupt politicians ever since, the civil service, trained by the old rulers, has held firm and kept the nation on its feet. How the unfortunate citizens of Zaire must wish their nation had been equally well equipped at independence.

In British Africa the transfer of power was peaceful and almost dignified. Off-the-peg constitutions were hastily brought out, dusted and sent off to Africa; parliaments were thrown up like theatre props (designed on the Westminster model down to the Speaker's

throne).

To enliven his story Royle uses a medium not available to an earlier generation of historians: transcriptions from the tape-recorded voices of some of the participants. (Strange to say, he fails to exploit that gold mine of history.)

He succeeds in making the

Andre Breton was the *malin d'* at the great Surrealist party of the Twenties and Thirties. To this day, no-one quite knows what Surrealism was, but this collection of essays by Breton, first published in 1924 when he was 28, is a good starting-point for trying to find out.

The main essay, *The Disastrous Confession*, written in 1923, is a splendidly exuberant piece of youthful writing, full of bold repudiations of anything resembling reason or sense. "I do not see so-called logic as anything more than the shameful exercise of weakness," writes Breton. What he believes in, he says, is "never letting anything become dulled in me" — in "hurling the window every day, again and again."

His hero in this essay is a elegant young man called Jacques Vache, "a past master in the art of attaching very little importance to anything", who spent his time drifting around Paris bars, and in 1919 killed himself — according to Breton — as a good black joke.

This essay is one of the liveliest accounts of rebellious boyish nihilism I have ever read. It is also a good account of Dadaism, insofar as that movement — invented by the marie Tristan Tzara at about this time — allowed itself to have any even marginally intelligible ideas. Breton became for the first few years of the 1920s an enthusiastic Dadaist, handing over to Tzara a literary magazine he had founded.

But where was he to go from there? The answer, which we get in the other main essay here, is *The Mediums Enter*. was to abandon Dadaism and

## Unconscious manifesto

**invent Surrealism. Surrealism entailed the same repudiation of conscious thought as Dadaism had. But it found somewhere to go in order to keep alive its sense of wonder and excitement — and that was into the Unconscious.**

Breton noticed that as he fell asleep, "phrases rich in images" came into his mind. So was born the idea of poetry as a kind of "magic dictation". That is perhaps as near as we can get to saying what Surrealism is — an involuntary exploration of the depths of the unconscious mind.

Breton, when he was on his honeymoon in Vienna, even went to see Freud to tell him about his idea, but Freud gave him short shrift, and Breton wrote a bad-tempered article about him, which is also included here. But after Breton produced his *Manifeste du surrealisme* in 1924, it caught on, and the notion was in vogue until the late Thirties.

Not that it ever produced much. Writers such as Louis Aragon, who started writing under the Surrealist banner, soon turned to communist politics. The one good poet who emerged from the movement in France, Paul Eluard, certainly had an instinct for stringing together evocative, broken lines about love and grief — the editor of the *Pleiad* edition of Eluard's works describes his poems as like the "wings of a butterfly

the masterful selection and deployment of their imagery, not just from the fact that it has well up from the unconscious.

In Britain, the movement had little serious influence, though in 1926, at the time of the International Surrealist Exhibition in London, Herbert Read produced an absurd book about it in which he praised the Surrealists as having "as pure a spirit as the Bolsheviks". Henry Moore is sometimes claimed as a Surrealist. And today, whenever he gets a chance to write about it, George Melly still tries to keep the old flame burning.

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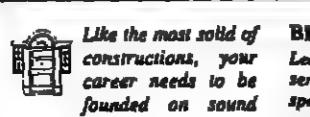
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## Company liability for death

**Regina v Gateway Foodmarkets Ltd**

Before Lord Justice Evans, Mrs Justice Ebsworth and Mr Justice Keene

Judgment December 19

A company was liable under section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 where there was a failure to ensure the health, safety and welfare at work of any employee, unless all reasonable precautions had been taken by the company or on its behalf. The breach of duty and liability did not depend upon any failure by the company itself, making office personnel or senior management wholly responsible for the company.

The Court of Appeal so ruled in a recent judgment dismissing the appeal of Gateway Foodmarkets Ltd against its conviction on a plea of guilty on September 19, 1995 in Sheffield Crown Court (Judge Moore) to failing to ensure, so far as was reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of an employee.

Section 2 of the 1974 Act provides: "(1) It shall be the duty of every employer to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of all his employees."

Mr Ian Glen, QC and Mr Anthony Reddick for the company; Mr Ian Groves for the Crown.

LODGE JUSTICE EVANS, giving the judgment of the court, said that the charge arose out of a fatal accident at the company's

Broomhill supermarket at Sheffield on April 2, 1993.

Mark Finn, aged 22, a section manager who on that day was duty manager in the absence of the regular store manager, fell to his death through a false door in the floor of the lift control room.

For about 12 months there had been an electrical problem with the lift. A faulty electrical contact meant that it jammed frequently. An experienced firm of lift contractor was employed under contract with the company to provide regular maintenance and, also a call-out service.

Unfortunately, a different system had developed at the store in response to the recurring defect.

The contractors had told the store personnel how to cure the defect by freeing the contact manually and it became the regular practice for the store manager or another of the section managers to go to the control room and free the contact.

That was unauthorised by the head office. No one there was aware of it.

On the day before the accident the contractors carried out routine maintenance of the lift. For no good reason they left open the trap door in the control room floor.

When the lift jammed on the following morning Mr Finn went to the control room, went from sunshine into darkness, did not see that the trap door was open and fell to the floor of the lift shaft.

On September 18, 1995 Judge Moore was asked to give a

preliminary ruling as to the scope of the duty created by section 2(1) of the 1974 Act. He ruled that the offence under the section was one of strict liability, subject to the caveat of reasonable practicability, and that there would be a liability on the company under section 2 if there had been a breach of duty created by the servants of the company. The court accepted the company guilty.

The court's object in appealing was to clarify the law as to the scope of section 2(1), particularly in relation to companies whose businesses included a large number of local stores separate from their head office.

One question which arose was what effect the authorities on section 30 of the 1974 Act, including R v Associated Octet Co Ltd (The Times November 15, 1996; 1996, 1 WLR 1543 had on the construction of section 2(1). Section 30 provided in different terms for the circumstances in which an employer incurred criminal liability towards a person who was not his employee.

The general considerations referred to in the authorities, including the purpose and object of the legislation, made it overwhelmingly clear that section 2(1), like section 30, should be interpreted as to impose liability on the employer whenever the relevant event occurred, namely in 2(1) a failure to ensure the health or safety of an employee, but only if "so far as is reasonably practicable" they had not been guarded against.

So the company was in breach of duty unless all reasonable precautions had been taken, which their Lordships interpreted as meaning "taken by the company or on its behalf". In other words, the breach of duty and liability under the section did not depend upon any failure by the company itself, meaning those persons who embodied the company, to take all reasonable precautions.

The qualification placed upon the company the onus of proving that all reasonable precautions were taken both by it and by its servants and agents on its behalf.

The concept of the "directing mind" of the company had to be taken into account here.

What was said by Lord Hoffmann in Associated Octet suggested that the principles of vicarious liability did have some application, and that the statutory qualification applied when all reasonable precautions had been taken by the employer and those for whom he was responsible in law.

A failure at store management level was certainly attributable to the employer. Their Lordships upheld the ruling of the judge and since, on the undisputed facts, there was a failure at store management level, the offence was made out.

Solicitors: Andrew Gregg & Co, Shrewsbury; Mr Mark H. Webster, Shrewsbury.

## Law Report January 2 1997

THE TIMES THURSDAY JANUARY 2 1997

Court of Appeal

## Extra evidence was unnecessary

**Regina v Sandhu**

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Sachs and Mr Justice Toulson. Judgment December 10.

To adduce evidence which went beyond proof of elements necessary to be established for an offence of strict liability was not an optional extra for the prosecution, and to adduce inadmissible evidence which was prejudicial to the defendant had to be objectionable.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so stated when allowing an appeal by Major Sandhu (also known as Singh), an estate agent, against conviction at Shrewsbury Crown Court (Judge Stephen Walker and a jury) on six counts of causing to be executed works for the alteration of Hainsault Hall, Chigwell, Essex, a Grade II listed building since 1954, contrary to section 9(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

He was fined £3,500, with three months imprisonment in default of payment and ordered to pay prosecution costs totalling £17,500 after a trial lasting from February 5 to 15.

Section 9(1) of the 1990 Act provided that a person who contravened section 7 was guilty of an offence.

Section 7 provides: "... no person shall... cause to be executed any works for the demolition of a listed building or for its alteration or extension in any manner which would affect its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest unless the works are authorised."

Mr Gregory F. Jones, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant, Mr Peter Gower for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that Hainsault Hall had been in poor condition since at least 1964 and no exterior decoration work was undertaken in 20 years.

By 1980 it was semi-dilapidated, open to the elements and prey to vandals. In 1990 it was placed on a register of buildings at risk and in 1991 the district council issued an urgent works notice to prevent further deterioration.

The appellant bought it in 1993 for his own use. It was uninhabitable, infested with wet and dry rot and in need of repair and restoration. He applied for planning permission and for listed building consent which was granted in September 1993.

The trial for contravening section 9(1) of the 1990 Act by unauthorised works on listed buildings involved five questions for answer by the court, whether justices or the crown court.

Was the building a listed building? 2 If so, were the works specified in

each of six counts, executed for its alteration?

4 If so, did the defendant cause the works specified in each count to be executed?

6 If so, were such works executed in such a manner which affected the characteristics of the building as a building of special architectural or historic interest?

5 If so, were such works

against the defendant and detract from the principal issue if the jury were to be told, as they had been, that the defendant, before entering the execution of the alterations objected to, was warned and advised, by the surveyor he employed, of the dangers and chose to ignore that advice and engaged an incompetent and cut-price builder and was generally happy to ride roughshod over the planning regulations.

In all the circumstances their Lordships could not be confident that the jury might not have been swayed against the defendant by the admission of a lot of material which should not have been before them.

Their Lordships were bound, with considerable difficulty in view of the time which the trial took and the expense involved to quash the six convictions.

Solicitors: Miss Alison Mitchell, Epping.

## Child cannot be in occupation

**Hydro-Mortgage Services Ltd v Robinson and Another**

A child could not be a person in actual occupation of property so as to be deemed under section 7(1)(g) of the Land Registration Act 1925 to have an overriding interest subsisting in it.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse and Sir John May) so held on November 7 when refusing an application by the defendant, Tracey Robinson and Michael Robinson, for leave to appeal against a possession order granted to the plaintiff mortgagee, Hydro-Mortgage Services Ltd, by Judge Viljoen in Milton Keynes County Court.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that it was sufficient that minor children living in a property with their mother, the legal owner, were not in actual occupation within section 7(1)(g).

That seemed to have been assumed in Bird v Syme-Thomson (1978) 1 WLR 440, 444. They were there because their parent was there. They had no right of occupation of their own they were only there as shadows of occupation of their parent.

No inquiry could be made of minor children or consent obtained from them in the manner contemplated by the provision, especially when they were, as here, of tender years. If the defendants were real lenders would never be protected; their security could always be frustrated by simple devices.

## Council should make inquiries first

**Regina v Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough Council and Another, Ex parte Dunne and Another**

Before Lord Justice Phillips and Mr Justice Hooper

Judgment December 17

A local authority should make inquiries into personal circumstances before, and not after, making an order directing travellers to leave land under section 7(1) of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1990.

A magistrate was restricted under section 7(1) of the Act to considering whether the formalities required under the Act had been carried out and it was not part of his function to review the merits of the local authority's decision to make an order.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in granting the application of John Dunne and Peter Rafferty for judicial review by way of certiorari to quash the decision of Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough Council to issue a notice on September 14, 1995 directing them, under section

7(1) of the Act, to leave land occupied by them and to quash a decision of Mr Christopher H. Johnston, an acting stipendiary magistrate at Wolverhampton, of March 29, 1995, upholding the local authority's complaint made against them when they did not remove themselves from the land.

The magistrate had adjourned the hearing of the complaint on September 22, December 10 and February 12, 1995 so that inquiries could be made into the circumstances of those against whom the direction had been made in order to act humanely and in accordance with local government duties as to homelessness provision and education, as required by government policy.

In making his eventual decision of February 19, 1995 the magistrate considered whether the local authority had conformed to government policy by making sufficient inquiries into the applicants' circumstances and whether it was reasonable to impose a permanent ban on them from the land.

In the present case, the magistrate considered it part of his

function, in effect, to conduct a judicial review of the council's decision.

In that he was mistaken. It was not for the magistrates to review the merits of the decision to give a direction that had been made by the local authority. The magistrates should simply be concerned with whether the formalities required by the Act had been carried out.

If those to whom a direction had been given wished to challenge it, their appropriate course was not to mount their challenge in the magistrates' court, unless the challenge was as to form, but to seek a stay and a speedy application for leave to seek judicial review of the direction.

The consideration given by the magistrate to the formalities, both to the inquiries made by the council before giving the direction and thereafter, and to the possibility of the land becoming a permanent rather than a temporary site for travellers was inappropriate.

Solicitors: Ross Page, Wolverhampton; Mr Richard Roberts, Wolverhampton.

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New year, new ideas, new company? Many readers of *The Times* were doubtless intrigued by Monday's headline: "Boardrooms too biased towards the shareholders". To many retired investors, let alone the City, this sounds like blaming governments for aping voters or the BBC for pandering to licence-payers.

The headline did, however, encapsulate the message from Mark Goyder, director of The Royal Society of Arts' Centre for Tomorrow's Company. It encouraged business to prosper by caring for all of its key "stakeholders", until Tony Blair hijacked that word. Now the centre wants companies to be "inclusive".

The centre's submission to the Hampstead committee, latest to ponder the niceties of corporate governance, issues a pre-election warning. "If companies wish to avoid the imposition of a more prescriptive format of new company law, it is becoming increasingly urgent that board practice is brought closer into line with the spirit of the existing law."

The spirit of the law? Companies must obey laws to protect people they affect: customers, employees, competitors, suppliers, taxpayers and all who live in the community. Beyond that, company law is pretty clear on a board's duties. Shareholders are both the owners and the members of public companies, and directors are responsible to them.

That reality was recognised by another pioneer of the shareholder idea. "Big business is getting steadily

## Shareholders are still the best guardians of success



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

and inevitably bigger. As it grows, so does its social power. Yet under existing company law, its sole duty is to the shareholder. Without any obligation to seek their asset to its policies, it can earn lasting goodwill neither from its employees, nor from the consumers of the goods and services which it provides, nor from the community of which it is a corporate citizen. Hence our economic life is one of perpetual conflict."

This was the thesis of *The Responsible Company*, published 35 years ago by Mr Goyder's distinguished father, George. In 1960, Goyder père vainly lobbied the Jenkins company law committee to create a new class of "participating company". It would aim to "pay a reasonable return on its invested capital" but have state-approved articles of association that entrenched obligations to consumers, employees and the national interest, embodied in three representative directors on a board of nine. It would be accountable to all these interests at annual meetings. And every three years it would undergo a "social audit" of the kind Body Shop has just pioneered.

Today's new thinking is not entirely new. George Goyder was a policy

adviser to the Liberal Party, which had some appealing alternative policies in the 1960s. In those days, the shareholder company was put forward as an alternative to socialist ownership, the active creed of the Labour Party. Participating company status, its purest legal embodiment, was aimed primarily at nationalised industries.

Tony Blair now talks of the shareholder society. But 1960s Liberal ideas seem far too radical for new Labour. Pending its manifesto, the party seems to be thinking only of permitting two-tier boards and, possibly, a general clause imposing wider duties on company directors.

Such formalities will have little effect. In today's maelstrom of market forces, building societies and insurance companies that prospered with help from their mutual status are queuing to convert. They hope slavery to the passing shareholder will make them more flexible.

The consensus participating company, anathema to 1980s Tories, would have been a more politically acceptable vehicle to privatise true monopoly utilities. Even so, prices charged to consumers would probably now be higher because the discipline of competing in the capital market was diluted.

I selected, Labour should consider something on these lines: for the remaining state monopolies such as the Post Office, Capital might be in an earnings-linked, index-linked form of preference share, as in old statutory companies.

As investors, academics and regulators have all discovered, it is impossible to fix a "reasonable" return in a competitive capital market for companies that need genuine risk capital. New structures cannot magically create consensus, let alone success. The real issue is how best to

serve shareholders, whether they are nameless City apparatchiks or employee partners. In that sense, the shareholder approach is just a form of the nebulous argument about short-termism.

Lord Weinstein, looking back this week after 33 years building GEC, claims that he believed in "managing the company for the good of the business in the expectation that the shareholder would benefit in due course". Those with long memories may recall different images after GEC's big mergers with AEI and English Electric. Lord Weinstein was a hero to investors but pilloried by others as a butcher who cared for nothing but the bottom line. The trust he earned from shareholders enabled him to take a long view.

Companies that respect customers, care about employees and play fair with suppliers usually deliver more to shareholders in the long run. Stock market ratings reflect this. As companies become more visible, theirwarts hide to hide, market forces are also obliging more boards to be good citizens, even though huge, too rapid job cuts have disguised the trend.

Recent takeovers show that myopic shareholders can and sometimes do prosper at the expense of the long-term interest of companies and their other stakeholders. But that is no reason to protect boards from their shareholders. For you will search in vain for companies whose shareholders languish, yet whose other stakeholders prosper.

Frank le Duc on the growing band of executives who risk all for huge rewards

## Managers with the Midas touch



Chris Oakley, left, Trevor Smallwood and Gerry Robinson are among the working millionaires who took a risk

I could be you. Each month about half a dozen more people join one of Britain's biggest groups of millionaires. And unlike lottery winners, their fortune relies not just on luck.

The manager is an unlikely modern hero – but, breaking from the drab-suited ranks, a growing band stands apart. These managers swapped security for risk, and in many cases took on second mortgages on their homes as they shed their sheep-like ways for those of entrepreneurial wolves.

Although lottery winners can retire with their winnings, managers continue to work after a management buyout (MBO) – in many cases harder than ever. Even when they realise their fortunes, old habits can prove hard to break. Rather than retire, Gerry Robinson moved to Granada after successfully seeing Compass, the catering group, from buoyant to flotation.

At Midland Independent Newspapers, owner of *The Birmingham Post* and *Evening Mail*, Chris Oakley has stayed at the helm since the group's flotation, despite being a paper millionaire. However, Terry Page, one of his colleagues, has announced his retirement and can look forward to spending more time with his money.

Derek Hunt led the buyout of MFI at about the same time

as similar deals at Lowndes Queensway, Magnet and Isosceles. Mr Hunt can reflect warmly on the wealth that followed, while the other three floundered in the recession of the early Nineties.

For Trevor Smallwood, the politics of privatisation helped him to take a bus on the road to riches. He led the buyout of Badgerline, part of National Bus, and has since overseen its merger with Firstbus.

Observers are now charting the rise of the institutional buyout (IBO), where the buyout is initiated by investing institutions. The trend of institutions making the first move emerged in the US much earlier. The predatory role of institutions has pushed up prices, but perhaps the prevalence of junk bonds in 1980s Wall Street will prove to be a crucial difference between the US and the UK now.

As *Forbes* magazine reported in 1988: "Today, the money is out looking for the deals, rather than the other way around." The same year was something of a watershed for buyouts in North America. KKR, the leveraged buyout specialist dubbed "the merchant of debt", paid \$30 billion for RJR Nabisco in a deal that almost wiped out both businesses.

The growth of the IBO is among the trends highlighted in the annual review that the Centre for Management Buyout Research (CMBOR) published this week. The centre, at the University of Nottingham, expects this year's record level of buy-ins and buyouts to continue until the general election.

Both the number of deals, estimated at 619, and their combined value of £7.5 billion were higher than ever. The CMBOR review says: "A potential change of government may be preceded by a period of excessive vendor activity followed by some readjustment and temporarily lower levels."

**T**wo trends mentioned in the review stand out: the rise of the buy-in and the emergence of the secondary buyout. The £4.18 billion of buy-ins exceeded the value of MBOs this year for the first time. Secondary buyouts and buy-ins – in which the target company has already been the subject of an MBO or MBI – increased by almost 50 per cent.

Managers pursuing an MBO as their road to riches may reflect on the lines from *Julius Caesar*: "There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune." But those who know their onions will be aware that Brutus, to whom Shakespeare gives the lines, quickly meets his end. And so with those who

seek their fortune through an MBO, receivership is the most common exit route after the trade sale.

The number of buyouts and buy-ins that ended in receivership stood at 55 this year – the fifth year in a row that the total has fallen. But proportionately, this shattering end to the dreams of putative millionaires accounted for more than a fifth of all exits. In personal terms, it can mean no home as well as no job.

Institutions looking to take the tide at the flood have had a busy year raising money. According to CMBOR, some \$840 million washed into CVC European Equity Partners, a fund for investing in European deals. Morgan Grenfell Equity Partners and 3i Fund, UK LMBO Fund raised \$350 million each, while Cinven raised \$300 million.

The fund managers will like the optimistic outlook of CMBOR's review, although it is not without qualifications. It notes the rising purchase prices resulting from competition among fund providers, and the increase in entry price-earnings ratios – that is, at the time of the deal. The review points out, too, the growing proportion of debt that MBO and MBI businesses are having to service and repay.

It says: "Against this, demand for buyouts from managers and investors remains high. The liquidity of the market, helped by recent realisations and successful equity fundraising, should ensure continuing high availability of funds."

Lucinda Horler Webber, director of BZW Private Equity, one of CMBOR's sponsors, acknowledged concerns about overheating, but said: "It is unlikely that we will see the high-profile collapses that occurred after the last peak in 1989. That peak followed a substantial boom, which resulted in optimistic forecasts and some very highly leveraged deal structures."

The severity of the subsequent recession, combined with soaring financing costs, provided a disastrous set of circumstances that do not exist now.

The dreamers can only hope that she is right, while the seasoned observers will cite the cyclical nature of markets and point out that peaks are invariably followed by troughs.

## A liberal dose of morality

Liberal Britain on Trial. Radio 4, 8.00pm.

Taking my cue from the referee, Nick Clarke, I won't cloud the issue by declaring my own reaction to the arguments on sex and morality as presented in this programme. There is much food for thought, mostly well cooked and served. The charge brought against sexual freedom in this approximation of a trial is that it has broken many of the links that bind society together and has also eroded morality. That case is presented by Mary Kenny. The case for the defence, argued by Polly Toynbee, is that we are in the grip of an unreasoning national moral panic. Two further "trials" in this series will test other liberal assumptions that have become part of society's common currency since the Swinging Sixties.

Born to be Perfect. Radio 4, 9.30am.

Serious in content, whimsical in structure, Sue Nelson's audio-diary of her bid to lose unwanted fat will leave other chocolate addicts wondering whether dieting is worth all the fuss. She doesn't get a morale boost when she asks a zoo specialist which animal she should emulate to improve figure and lifestyle. The male chauvinist, he says, because he thrives on fruit and veg and barges around his cage acting domineering. On the specific question of her chicholism, the advice of one psychologist sounds far too vague: "Remove the wrapping, sniff the delicious brown stuff, then put it aside and try to forget all about it."

### RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe, live from Manchester 9.00 Kevin Greene 12.00 Nicky Campbell 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Nicky Campbell 3.00pm Mark Goodier 7.00 Evening Session with Jo Whiley 8.00 Saturday Session with John Whitley 8.15 Sunday Session 8.45 Sports Roundup 9.00 BBC English 10.45 On the Shelf 11.30 Mandarin On Screen 12.00 Sports International 12.15 British Today 12.30 Assignment 2.05 Outlook 2.20 Multimedia 3.00 Sports Roundup 3.15 From Our Own Correspondent 3.30 News 4.45 World Today 4.45 BBC English 4.45 Britain Today 5.30 Business 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.30 Assignment 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 John Peel 9.05 Business 9.15 British Today 9.20 Money Box 10.00 World Today 10.00 Sports Roundup 11.00 Today 11.15 Record Roundup 11.30 Ed Stewart 12.00 Good Morning 12.45 Britain Today 1.30 Outlook 1.35 Words of Faith 2.00 BBC English 2.30 Thirty-Minute Drama 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.30 Europe Today

### RADIO 2

8.00am Nick Barnacle, live from Birmingham 8.30 Kevin Greene 12.00 Mark Kennedy 9.30 Alex Lester 11.30 Jimmy Young 12.00 Saturday Session 12.30 Sunday Session 1.00 John Peel 7.00 My Memory and Me 7.30 David Allen 8.00 Paul Jones 10.30 Stagecoach 11.00 Bob Horn 1.00am Adam Freeth 3.00 Steve Maclean

### RADIO 3

5.00am Classical Watch 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.35 The Magazine 10.00 Midday with Mat 2.05pm Rusco on Five 4.00 Nationwide 6.30 The Thursday Match: Rangers v Celtic. Coverage from 10.30am. Head to Head: Professor George Bunting, international footballer; athlete Kelly Holmes 9.05 SportsAmerica, with Alison Byrd 9.25 Sports Show 10.05 The Food of Love and Hate 11.00 Night Extra 11.25 Never Walk Alone (4/5) 12.05am After Hours – Early Call 2.05 Up All Night

### TALK RADIO

5.00am Early Breakfast 7.00 Paul Ross 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 2.05pm with Peter Docker 7.00 Mo's Diet 8.00 Sportszone 10.00 James Whales 1.00am Ian Collier

### RADIO 4

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore, Chakovsky (Fantasy Overture: Romeo and Juliet); Albinoni, Adagio in G (Concerto: Bach (Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor) 3.00 Jamie Crichton, Violin Concerto 10.00 Songs from the Proms 11.00 Schubert: Trout Fantasy 12.00 Concert: Tchaikovsky (Cello Concerto in E flat); Schumann: Op. 19; 7.00 Travel Guide: Germany 8.00 Concert: Tchaikovsky (Cello Concerto in D); Villa-Lobos: Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5; Haydn (Cello Concerto No. 1 in C flat); Brahms: Rhapsody No. 1 9.00 Bach: Violin Concerto 10.00 Nic Bailey 1.00am Sally Peterson

### VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Jeremy Clark 10.00 Graham Dens 2.05pm Nicky Home 6.00 Paul Coyle (FM) / Richard Porter (AM) 10.00 Mark Forman 2.00am Randal Lee Rose

### RADIO 5

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore, Chakovsky (Fantasy Overture: Romeo and Juliet); Albinoni, Adagio in G (Concerto: Bach (Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor) 3.00 Jamie Crichton, Violin Concerto 10.00 Songs from the Proms 11.00 Schubert: Trout Fantasy 12.00 Concert: Tchaikovsky (Cello Concerto in D); Villa-Lobos: Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5; Haydn (Cello Concerto No. 1 in C flat); Brahms: Rhapsody No. 1 9.00 Short Stories: Louis 9.15 Cecile Chodat, Piano recital 10.00 Images (Images, 3.1; 'Le Poème de l'Amour et du Désespoir') 11.00 Poème à Radio 1 DJ John Peel 12.00 London Symphony Orchestra, under Mstislav Rostropovich, with Ian Bostridge, tenor; Hugh Stoen, horn; Richard Rodney Bennett (Partita for Orchestra); Carlisle Floyd (Song from the Moon, bassoon and string); Shostakovich (Symphony No. 5)

### CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mati Gelfits 6.00 Mike Read 6.30 Henry Kelly 12.30 Margaret Howell 2.00pm Concerto: Bruch (Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor) 3.00 Jamie Crichton, Violin Concerto 10.00 Songs from the Proms 11.00 Schubert: Trout Fantasy 12.00 Concert: Tchaikovsky (Cello Concerto in D); Villa-Lobos: Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5; Haydn (Cello Concerto No. 1 in C flat); Brahms: Rhapsody No. 1 9.00 Short Stories: Louis 9.15 Cecile Chodat, Piano recital 10.00 Images (Images, 3.1; 'Le Poème de l'Amour et du Désespoir') 11.00 Poème à Radio 1 DJ John Peel 12.00 London Symphony Orchestra, under Mstislav Rostropovich, with Ian Bostridge, tenor; Hugh Stoen, horn; Richard Rodney Bennett (Partita for Orchestra); Carlisle Floyd (Song from the Moon, bassoon and string); Shostakovich (Symphony No. 5)

### RADIO 6

1.00am Musical Encounters, with Edward Blakeman, Anton (Ave Maria); Mozart (Piano Sonata in A, K381); Sibelius (Violin Concerto in D major); Liszt (Hungarian Rhapsody); Debussy (Cello Sonata); Michael Haydn (Symphony in E flat); Paganini (Violin Concerto); Michael Haydn (Symphony in E flat); Schubert: Trout Fantasy (Poème à Radio 1 DJ John Peel) 12.00 London Symphony Orchestra, under Mstislav Rostropovich, with Ian Bostridge, tenor; Hugh Stoen, horn; Richard Rodney Bennett (Partita for Orchestra); Carlisle Floyd (Song from the Moon, bassoon and string); Shostakovich (Symphony No. 5)

### 12.30pm Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather

1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod 1.30 Radio 6

### RADIO 4

5.00pm Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News 8.15 Farming Today 8.30 Prayer for the Day 8.45 The Short Story: Or Else the Lighting God 9.00 Catherine Lim's drama about a woman cursed by the Lighting God 10.00 The Short Story: The Curse of the Chimaera 11.00 Mother-in-Law: Will she ever be able to overcome her grim fate? Read by Alice Arnold 11.30 Shipping Forecast 12.00 The Sixties: A new comedy series with Nick Golen and Tim Jouko with 12.30 The Sixties: The Sixties 1.00 The Short Story: Sally Phillips 1.30 The Short Story: Julian Fellowes explores the origins of 1.30 The Short Story: The Sixties on Trial, See Choice 1.45 My Granny's Land: HP Agatha Christie's classic mystery, with David Cooper 2.00 The Short Story: Sally Phillips 2.30 Kaleidoscope (1) 3.00 Weather 3.00 The World Tonight 3.45 The Short Story: Sally Phillips 4.00 The Short Story: Sally Phillips 4.30 The Short Story: Sally Phillips 5.00 The Short Story: Sally Phillips 5.30 Weather 5.30 The Short Story: Sally Phillips 6.00 The Short Story: Sally Phillips 6.30 The Short Story: Sally Phillips 7.00 The Short Story: Sally Phillips 7.30 The Short Story: Sally Phillips 8.00 The Short Story: Sally Phillips 8.30 The Short Story: Sally Phillips 9.00 The Short Story: Sally Phillips 9.30 Weather 9.30 The Short Story: Sally Phillips 10.00 The Short Story: Sally Phillips 10.30 The Short Story: Sally Phillips 11.00 The Short Story: Sally Phillips 11.30 The Short Story: Sally Phillips 12.00 The Short Story: Sally Phillips 12.30 The Short Story: Sally Phillips 1.00 As World Service

starring Jessica Lange as Blanche Dubois

4.45 Short Story: Or Else the Lighting God: Catherine Lim's drama about a woman cursed by the Lighting God

5.00 The Short Story: Sally Phillips 5.30 Weather

# Gloss of reality gives the Floss a timeless truth

The year just ended brought a revival in television adaptations of the classics and the one just started looks like continuing the trend, although the drama departments will be going some if they can produce this year anything to outdo last night's *The Mill on the Floss* (BBC1). This was sumptuous stuff, two hours to heal the wounds of a predictable holiday schedule.

George Eliot's best work has recently graced the screen in the serialisation of *Middlemarch*, an outstanding event which made the licence fee look cheap even if you didn't watch anything else. The decision to continue *The Mill on the Floss*, Eliot's most famous book, to a one-off was the right one, for this is a story that benefits from compression rather than the opposite. It is usually billed as a tale of unrequited love, but there is a lot more to it than that.

Eliot's alter ego is to be found in

the central character of Maggie Tulliver, played with a faultless sureness for the part-by-far-finisher. Maggie's dilemma is one that pervades much of Eliot's writing, she longs to be a good hearted, the woman's struggle to be taken seriously as an individual while coping with the demands of univited passion.

Hugh Stoddart's adaptation filters all of this, without losing track of a cracking story, in which Eliot's attempts to juggle her principles, her family, her idealistic love for Philip (James Fleet) and her passion for Stephen James Weber-Brown end in tragedy.

The last scene, in which

Maggie dreams attempting to save her brother Tom (Iain Meredith) will live in the memory a long time.

It is one thing to describe in words Maggie trying to rescue Tom but deciding, once his life is clearly gone, to die with him. To do

so in a television sequence underwater is quite another. But a combination of Graham Thackston's directing and Watson's ability to make her face act for her achieved that fear and the result was a moment of real dramatic brilliance.

From *The Mill on the Floss* the overriding lesson is that the best of costume drama is not an alternative to real life but an evocation of it, not an historical curiosity but a glimpse of truths that are timeless. Eliot deals in human relationships and she was a mistress of the art. My Boxing Day attack in this space on the bogus "reality" of *EastEnders* is here given fresh impetus, for real life is primarily about the rhythms in relationships not the reaction to incidental events. There is more reality in two hours along the River Floss than in 100 episodes from *Alley Square*.

## REVIEW



Peter Barnard

Another reality, this one a creation Mother Nature had its moment on television yesterday and I am disappointed to find myself unimpressed. Not that the rising sun is ever a disappointment, though there are those who may wonder how the heck I know. But a thing of beauty is not necessarily a programme idea awaiting co-production money. Global Sunrise Around the

World in 80 Minutes (BBC1) must have sounded like a good scheme at the time, but I was left with the feeling that natural history on television is starting to strain for new forms of expression.

I expect my reaction was assisted by finding a programme fused on sunrise in 20 places around the world being transmitted at 5.30 in the afternoon. Yes I know: nobody is watching at sunrise. But occasionally ratings have to be sacrificed to achieve some sense that the event has a relevance to the viewer's perception of time and this was such an occasion. Perhaps the notion was that a hungover nation would tape the programme and watch it during breakfast someday. Dream on.

The film had some lovely moments, especially the turtle laying its eggs on a beach along the Great Barrier Reef, burying them in the sand and then making her tortuous journey back to the ocean. And

of course the filming was exquisite: we have come to expect that from natural history cameramen. But I could not help feeling that someone somewhere had been asked for a film with a theme and someone somewhere else had a yen to watch the sun come up. The result was a co-production between the BBC, several other national television companies and The Disney Channel in America. We did not quite get Bambi prancing in the surf as the sun rose but it was a close thing at times.

I enjoy most natural history programmes but if these are the lengths television will go to in search of another one there is cause to wonder why the medium cannot give animals a rest and start doing more programmes about people, anthropology being seriously under-explored on television.

A completely daft new series

began last night and I do not so much recommend it as recommend you give it a try in the hope that the next few will be better than the opener. *Kliniki* (Channel 4) lasts ten minutes, so will not detain you too long and it has an excellent pedigree, coming from the same team that produced *Pallas*, an hilarious series which used footage of the royals over-dubbed with new dialogue.

*Kliniki* uses a Dutch soap opera about a hospital and over-dubs it with English dialogue in a Dutch accent. Great potential, not quite realised last night. The bit in which Diana, Princess of Wales, on a charity binge, rejected two children on the grounds that they "aren't ethnic enough" was a tired old joke but the main theme, of a hospital run by a man who used to own an abattoir now hoping to attract patients from the British NHS, ought to be good for some fun.

SBC1

6.00am BBC BUSINESS BREAKFAST (39137314) 7.00 BBC News (40336579) 9.05 Incredible Games (7202260) 9.35 Sweet Valley High (2644734) 9.55 William's Wish (Wellingtons) (9056470) 10.00 Playdays (7078024)

10.25 FILM: *The Apple Dumpling Gang* (1974) Western comedy starring Bill Bixby, (18059367)

12.05 *INCOGNITO* (5527734) 12.30 *WPEOUT* (682227)

1.00 NEWS (1) and weather (58802)

1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (4424550)

1.40 NEIGHBOURS (1) (51785288)

2.00 FILM: *The Strongest Man in the World* (1975) Comedy, starring Kurt Russell. A student and his cohorts discover a magic formula which will give them superhuman strength. Directed by Vincent McEveety (14889)

3.30 *PLAYDAYS* (3285208) 3.50 *Casper Classics* (297227) 3.55 *Wham! Bam! Strawberry Jam* New series (1412158) 4.10 *Free Willy* (1042104) 4.35 *The Really Wild Show* New series (7257821) 5.00 *Newsworld* (1) (14767386) 5.10 *The Big* (1) (1252802)

5.35 *NEIGHBOURS* (1) (556885)

6.00 NEWS (1) and weather (79)

6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (31)

7.00 *WATCHDOG* Ad update on recent stories (1) (5024)

7.30 *EASTENDERS* Lorraine decides it's time to spoil the beans and Garry makes an unexpected visit to a shocked local (1) (43)

8.00 **INCREDIBLE JOURNEYS** Following the first migration journey of a new-born reindeer calf it sets out to make the long and dangerous year-long trek across North America's arctic tundra (1) (444)

8.30 *NEXT OF KIN* New series, Andrew takes over the running of the house when Maggie fails it. With Penelope Keith and William Gaunt (1) (7108)

9.00 NEWS (1), regional news and weather (2531)

9.20 *THE X-FILES*: *The Positve* An agent psychics admits to 14 solved murders, describing each scene so perfectly that the investigating officers are convinced of his guilt. However, Mulder and Scully are not so sure (573734)

10.15 *THE FRANK SKINNER SHOW* New series of chat and comedy (1) (592442)

10.45 **THE BIRTH OF HORROR** Christopher Frayling looks at the dark atrocity of old Edinburgh in search of the truth behind Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (428005)

11.35 FILM: *Hallowe'en* (1978) with Jamie Lee Curtis and Donald Pleasance. Michael Myers escapes from a state mental home 15 years after initially murdering his sister and goes on a bloody house-attack frenzy in his home town. Directed by John Carpenter (1) (851482)

1.05 FILM: *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1931) b/w Spencer Tracy, Ingrid Bergman, Linda Turner and Fredric March. Louis Stevenson's story. Directed by Victor Fleming (1931)

3.05 *WEATHER* (53907880)

BBC2

7.15 SEE *HEAR* **BREAKFAST** NEWS (6859208) 7.30 *Pinup* (805467) 7.25 *Today* (7051821) 7.50 *The Busy World of Richard Scarry* (2895735) 8.15 *Peter Pan and the Pirates* (622024) 8.35 *The Legend of Prince Valiant* (3037260)

9.05 FILM: *Portrait of Joanie* (1968) Romantic drama starring Joseph Cotten, Jennifer Jones. Directed by William Dieterle (9024227)

10.25 FILM: *The Enchanted Cottage* (1945) b/w Milt McGuire and Robert Young. A pitchy young girl and a displaced war veteran stumble across a country cottage where they both suddenly appear beautiful and fall in love with each other. Directed by John Cromwell (73827849)

12.00 **THE PHIL SILVERS SHOW** (5916) (15220065)

1.25pm *MAN IN A SUITCASE* (1) (5033636)

1.15 **POLICE SQUAD** (1) (7051294)

1.40 **THE CARS** *THE STAR* *The Volkswagen Golf GTI* (1) (51785218)

2.00 *DEATH OF THE TITANES* the controversial 1974 British Lions rugby tour of South Africa (1) (7) (5202117)

2.45 **GREAT RAILWAY JOURNEYS** March to the Khyber Pass (917) (2422208)

3.00 *INCREDIBLE JOURNEYS* A Caribbean's Trek BBC2, 8.30pm

3.45 *THE CURMING LITTLE VIXEN* Producer Nicholas Turner's acclaimed adaptation of Jean Giraudoux's popular operetta sung in Czech, recorded live at the Charles (Hradcany) Musicalia de Prague. With English subtitles (7278937)

4.25 **AFFAIRS TO REMEMBER** (20428)

5.10 **TOP GEAR**: Jeremy Clarkson recounts the history of car manufacture. Aston Martin (1) (821)

5.30 *SYKES* Vintage comedy (1) (59633)

5.45 **GOALS** Animation (1) (508205)

5.46 **ARENA**: There's No Such Thing as a Small Head of State BBC2, 9.40pm

You might not think that a satisfying documentary could be built around a single photograph, even if it did include Fidel Castro, Boris Yeltsin, Yasir Arafat and Bill Clinton. But Kate Maynell's film never fails to fascinate. The picture was the official group photograph taken during celebrations for the 500th anniversary of the United Nations in October 1995. Behind the more or less smiling faces of 180 world leaders hung several tales and Maynell does not miss a thing. How did Bosnia manage to get two people in the picture when no other nation managed more than one? And what about the absentees? The President of Sao Tome and Principe had good reason for not being there. He had just been arrested after a coup. But where was John Major or Helmut Kohl?

*Nightmare: The Birth of Horror* BBC1, 10.45pm

Resuming his watchable series on 19th century horror classics, Christopher Frayling turns to Robert Stevenson and *Dr Jekyll and Hyde*. As with Frankenstein and *Dracula*, the film is the most famous of a unique event at the Melton Mowbray building in Manhattan. With the bodies of almost every country and culture world posed for a collective photograph in 1995 (T) (594840)

10.00 *NEWSPAPER* (1) (887821)

10.30 *EMMERDALE* The Suggs bid a final farewell to Emmerdale Farm (T) (2032)

11.30pm *STAR TREK: Deep Space Nine* (1) (508452)

1.00pm *Death in the Moon* (6.45pm)

1.45pm *THE CURMING LITTLE VIXEN*

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during celebrations for the 500th

anniversary of the United Nations

in October 1995 (T) (594840)

10.00 *NEWS* and weather (27482)

10.30 *REGIONAL NEWS* (1777993)

10.40 *EMMERDALE* Concluded (T) (152550)

11.40 *SNOKER*: Liverpool Victoria Charity Challenge 1997 (492665)

12.00 *FILM: TWO WAY STRETCH* (1960) A comedy starring Peter Sellers (8205463)

3.05 *Film: A SHOT IN THE DARK* (40511647)

5.00 *PUMP* (6598)

5.30 *COUNTDOWN* (76)

6.00 *NEWYDDION* (597173)

6.30 *EMMERDALE* The Suggs bid a final

farewell to Emmerdale Farm (T) (2032)

7.00pm *STAR* (5205463)

7.30pm *EMMERDALE* The Suggs bid a final

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## GUARDIANS 38

Graham Searjeant  
on power in  
the boardroom

# BUSINESS

THURSDAY JANUARY 2 1997

## FRAUD 37

How a holiday  
might have  
stopped Leeson

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

## Computer errors may cost Halifax members their bonus

By LYNNE SMITH  
AND MARIANNE CURPHEY

SAVERS with the Halifax face losing share bonuses worth £1,000 on average when the society converts to a bank because of serious errors in its computer files. Within hours of the expiry of the new year deadline for members to top up their savings to qualify for a bonus, the Halifax has admitted that many savers have been sent the wrong information.

Errors include being told that they are ineligible for free shares, when they do qualify. The society has admitted that

there may be discrepancies in information sent to its 11 million customers, and urged savers to contact its helpline if they had any queries and to explain all relevant details about their accounts.

Extra staff and telephone lines have been put in place to cope with the anticipated demand from customers.

The Halifax said customers might receive wrong information on whether they would be eligible or ineligible for its free share offer because all information had been keyed in manually, and the spelling of similar surnames, such as Green and Greene, could also mean

customers inadvertently got wrong details about their share status.

The Halifax is unable to say what proportion of savers might be affected by computer errors. Members of the Halifax, Woolwich and Northern Rock building societies had to top up their account balances by the close of business on Tuesday in order to qualify for a shareout on conversion.

Details sent to one reader of *The Times* in north London, who asked not to be named, contained an error regarding her share status as executor to her late aunt's estate. The woman and her aunt had savings accounts with Halifax. They were

eligible for both the basic and variable distribution of free shares when Halifax converted. However, in a letter to the woman, Halifax said her late aunt's account was an ordinary share one, and did not acknowledge that the money had been transferred into an executor account. The letter said she was only entitled to receive one allocation of free shares.

The woman contacted Halifax several times over a number of weeks but said the society was insistent that the information was correct. However, after contacting *The Times* about her predicament, the woman was then told an administrative

error had been made and she was entitled to two lots of free shares.

The distribution of free shares under the Halifax's proposed scheme will comprise a basic distribution to all qualifying members, employees and pensioners and a variable distribution to certain members, depending on account balances.

The basic distribution will be made to each investing member of the Halifax who held not less than £100 in total in share accounts and/or permanent interest bearing shares (Pibs) of the Halifax and/or the Leeds Permanent at midnight, November 25, 1994, and who remained an

investing member of the Halifax (or before the merger, of the Leeds) continuously until conversion. It is also made to investing members who are eligible to vote on the conversion resolution.

The variable distribution will be made to those who qualify for the basic distribution as investing members, and who held shares continuously for the period of two years ending on the qualifying day for conversion. It will also be made to those whose lower total balance in a share account and/or Pibs at midnight, November 25, 1994, and at the special general meeting in February, is at least £1,000.

## Tax and rates 'likely to rise after election'

By PHILIP BASSETT AND JANET BUSH

TAXES and interest rates will have to rise in the early days of the new parliament, whichever party wins the election, according to the latest economic analysis by Cambridge Econometrics, the independent think-tank.

But, despite the prospect of having to make some unpopular and early political choices, Cambridge emphasised that the incoming Administration will take power at a more auspicious time than in either 1974 or 1979. It argued that there is little prospect of the type of speculative boom seen in the recent past and the pain of the associated fallout.

On taxes, Cambridge said that November's Budget had not fully addressed pressure on the Government's financial

position. It said: "In order to reduce borrowing or finance spending or tax-cutting commitments, some tax increases are likely. Politically, the best time to introduce these is as early as possible after the election."

Cambridge noted that on the optimum political timing fortunately coincided with the needs of the economy, which is likely to see growth accelerate this year to 3.3 per cent, supported by a resurgence in consumer spending and strong investment growth. A rise in interest rates would be needed if consumer spending accelerated more rapidly than the 4.1 per cent growth it is expecting and tax rises would also help to prevent excessive growth.

It also pointed out that, on both occasions in the past, the incoming Labour administration had been forced to deal with the aftermath of a pre-election boom, which then led to a slowdown in growth and an upturn in employment. This time around, there is not likely to be an excessive boom because of the more cautious policy of the current Government.

Cambridge pointed out that every Labour government since the war has faced an economic crisis related to sterling and the balance of payments but that this time "there is little prospect that a current account crisis will blow the next government off course."

The forecast said: "In many respects, the economic environment facing the next government is better than has commonly been the case in the past." It noted that there is a reasonably benign international economic environment featuring low worldwide inflation.

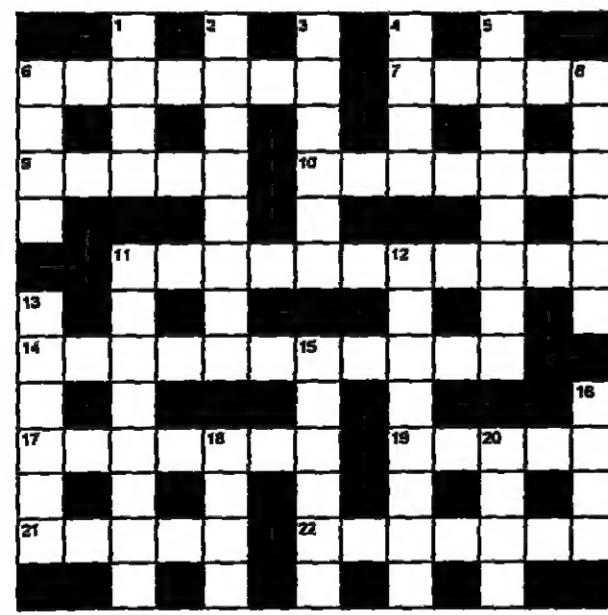
A separate report published today by Oxford Economic Forecasting, however, highlights some potential risks to the world economy this year, reserving particular gloom for continental European economies.

Oxford said that the outlook for Europe remains dominated by the massive fiscal retrenchment necessary for countries to meet the Maastricht treaty convergence criteria, which means that growth on the Continent will remain below trend in 1997. Oxford predicts growth of 2 per cent compared with 1.4 per cent in 1996.

Against this background, it argues that most countries — including Germany — will struggle to get their deficits down to the Maastricht limit of 3 per cent of gross domestic product without further public financing "fiddles". "Worries on this score are likely to provoke another round of interest rate cuts early in 1997 — still too little too late," it said.

Oxford concludes that the planned start of monetary union on January 1, 1999, is by no means a foregone conclusion.

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 980 in association with  
BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS  
6 Easily damaged (7)  
7 Vehicle immobiliser (5)  
9 Franz — pianist/composer (5)  
10 Glass-cased lamp (7)  
11 Suck up (to) (5,6)  
14 Poor reassurance (4,7)  
17 Bear witness (7)  
19 Cavalry sword (5)  
21 Long (for) (5)  
22 Dryness (7)  
  
DOWN  
1 — teeth, — everything" (4,7)  
2 Of memorable importance (8)  
3 Miscellany (6)  
4 Check metre of line; medical image (4)  
5 Shoeless; type of doctor (China) (8)  
6 Occupy, pervade (4)  
8 Poverty (6)  
11 Dressing cabbage salad (8)  
12 Of hearing; non-amplified instrument (8)  
13 Absent-minded, disorganised (6)  
15 Distress call (6); a holiday (3,3)  
16 Sir Peter —, 17C Dutch portraitist (4)  
18 Island off Mall, 13C abbey (4)  
20 Radar image; minor out-of-line result (4)

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The Airline for Europe

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All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address \_\_\_\_\_

SOLUTION TO NO 979

ACROSS: 1 Left-handed 9 Amalgam 10 Rambo 11 Fare 12 Black Sea 14 Impair 15 Stroll 18 Butter up 20 Klin 22 Romeo 23 Science 24 Dilatante

DOWN: 2 Edge 3 Tumble 4 Atrocity 5 Dumps 6 Drop changes 7 Half-dimbered 8 Laptop 13 Wiped out 16 Orient 17 Russia 19 Tamil 21 Mist



Lord Rix, left, at Tesco's Brent Cross store with Ray Jackson, manager, and Paula Peters

### Tesco funds for Mencap campaign

TESCO, Britain's largest supermarket group, will this month launch a campaign in support of Mencap, its choice for 1997 charity of the year (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Mencap, the charity for mentally handicapped children and adults and whose chairman is Lord Rix, has high hopes for the campaign. In previous years Tesco's staff have raised more than £1 million for the company's chosen charity.

Against this background, it argues that most countries — including Germany — will struggle to get their deficits down to the Maastricht limit of 3 per cent of gross domestic product without further public financing "fiddles". "Worries on this score are likely to provoke another round of interest rate cuts early in 1997 — still too little too late," it said.

Oxford concludes that the planned start of monetary union on January 1, 1999, is by no means a foregone conclusion.

### Business holds fire on single currency

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S business leaders are to hold back from taking a clear decision on the UK's participation in a European single currency until after a general election.

While the move puts the main business organisations in line with the major political parties, it is likely to draw criticism from some business leaders, particularly those in largely non-exporting firms, who are opposed to economic and monetary union (EMU).

Business leaders are deeply divided over the single currency issue, with most poll evidence showing that, in the main, they are unsure whether it will be of benefit to Britain.

While leaders of the Institute of Directors feel confident enough about their members' opposition to EMU to have

declared that Britain should not take part in a single currency, at least yet, other main business bodies are consulting their members on what line, if any, to recommend.

Leaders of key business representative bodies in Britain are now working on a timetable that will not see them make a recommendation on a single currency until after the general election.

The Confederation of British Industry is to mount an extensive consultation exercise, a process CBI officials believe will take three to four months. The CBI will then draw up a recommendation.

The British Chambers of Commerce is to mount a similar exercise and will join with the CBI to stage discussion forums on EMU.

### US ruling offers hope for UK claims

By CARL MORTISHED

A LANDMARK ruling in the US Tax Court in Washington could open the door to billions of dollars in claims for overpaid tax from British banks and other companies with branch operations in the United States.

The case concerned a Canadian life insurance company which successfully argued that the Internal Revenue Service had violated the US-Canada income tax treaty when it used a complex formula to assess the company's tax instead of the business's actual income.

The survey shows that many firms plan to increase investment and employment on the back of a recovery driven by strong domestic orders. But much of the confidence for strong profit growth is based on plans to raise prices.

Michael Riding, Lloyds' managing director of commercial banking, predicted that inflation and interest rates would rise in the first six months of this year and that this could dent confidence in the domestic market.

The survey, which analysed responses from 2,000 middle market businesses with turnovers of £1 million to £100 million, showed that profit growth accelerated strongly over the past six months in response to a significant upturn in business activity.

The upturn has been centred on service sector businesses, most notably transport and communications and hotels, catering and leisure. Manufacturing has performed much more weakly. The strongest growth came in the South of England, with the Midlands, the North and Wales lagging behind.

The survey said smaller businesses — those with turnover of less than £2 million — continued to have a harder time than larger companies which have seen the strongest growth in sales and orders.

### Mid-sized businesses regain confidence

By OUR ECONOMICS EDITOR

BRITAIN'S medium-sized businesses are expressing their most confidence since the last recession ended, but inflationary pressures, currently smouldering in the economy, are poised to take the shine off that optimism, a survey by Lloyds Bank Commercial Service concludes.

The survey shows that many firms plan to increase investment and employment on the back of a recovery driven by strong domestic orders. But much of the confidence for strong profit growth is based on plans to raise prices.

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## Report hits at Rowntree inquiry

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE failure of young men in Britain to accept their responsibilities as husbands and fathers is a far more obvious explanation for rising levels of crime than unemployment and poverty, according to a report published by The Institute of Economic Affairs.

The report by Norman Dennis fires a broadside at what he calls Britain's social affairs intelligentsia — and in particular the influential *Inquiry into Income and Wealth* published in 1993 by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

The inquiry used income statistics from 1979 to 1992 to make an association between poverty and increasing inequality in the Rowntree inquiry's conclusions. He points out that the inquiry's own work shows that incomes were rising and

unemployment was low in the period from 1961 to 1979. If the association between poverty and crime were valid, crime should have been falling. He contends that crime was already rising rapidly. "The breakdown in social order was proceeding throughout the whole period 1961 to 1992 — not just the Thatcher era — so the Rowntree inquiry embodies at the heart of its analysis a massive contradiction."

The author argues that there may not even have been an increase in poverty since 1979. He points out that those in the lowest tenth of income distribution reported falls in their incomes of about 15 per cent between 1979 and 1992 but that their cash expenditure was 30 per cent higher.

*The Invention of Permanent Poverty* (The Institute of Economic Affairs, 2 Lord North Street, London SW1V 3LB; £11).